

PURPLE HAZE



**I AM THE
THEME**

**International Women's
Day Edition 2023**

Artwork by Hunter Xu

Editor's Note

There is no one way to be a woman. However, this is not something that society likes. Even when we fight against dehumanising and humiliating stereotypes, some of us still take it too far and find new people to demonise, erasing any progress we may make. To fight for our equity as women, it is often a process of taking 1 step forward, and 3 steps back.

That is the reason why I chose this year's theme for our annual International Women's Day Edition at Purple Haze. When redecorating my Publications bulletin board, I was constantly asked "Why is it pink? Publications isn't pink. Publications is about books and writing and knowledge." And I told them no. Pink is going to be Publications, and pink is also going to be books and writing and knowledge. Pink isn't exclusively for girls. But pink is a very important colour. It's my joint favourite colour along with yellow. Pink and Black are synonymous with Blackpink, a kpop group that I love. My old bedroom walls used to be pink when I was a child. I love Pink. Pink is me. And I was going to be The Theme. I am Publications Prefect. I can do whatever the hell I want. Pink is me, and I am Publications.

I was also told that by using pink I was going to turn Publications into a girls club and deter boys from joining, which is fair enough advice. I do not want to exclude anyone from the club. But I said fine. Whatevs. If they think that pink is such a travesty to their masculinity, I'm not sure I want them joining anyways. When blue was used for other bulletin boards around the school, no one said that they were excluding or deterring girls from joining their clubs. Blue and girls isn't weird. Neither is pink and boys. Pink wasn't for the girls. Pink was for me. I was The Theme. So why was there such a problem?? We all know why.

I am the theme is about female self expression and our right to identify and personify in any way we want. I am sick of being made fun of for liking the stuff that I like, or choosing to do the stuff that I do. And I am sick of seeing the other women I love in my life also get shamed for trying to be who they are. I Am The Theme, and I've had it with people trying to shove me into a box of conformity.

On a more lighthearted note, it is an honour that my first edition as Publications Prefect is for the International Women's Day. I would like to thank all of my fantastic contributors for this edition, as listed at the end of the magazine, who have put heaps and heaps of their time and effort into making this magical. I would also like to thank those who volunteered to be on my editing and design teams. I could not have done this without you. Finally, I would like to thank Ms Read for being an amazing mentor and supervisor. I would have crashed and burned without you, Ms Read.

I hope you enjoy Purple Haze's Edition for International Women's Day: I Am The Theme.

Happy reading, Amy

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Amazing First Nations Women

Internationally, Indigenous women are renowned for their rich knowledge of the natural world, health, technologies, rites, and rituals. In Aboriginal culture, women traditionally played a central role within families, communities, and spiritual ceremonies, viewed as both life-givers and the caretakers of life. I think it is the principle of 'caretaker' that remains pivotal in the work of powerful Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women today. There are countless Indigenous Australian women that have helped to shape not only the broader Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities but the entirety of our diverse nation we call home. It is with pride that I introduce to you the following women, caretakers of Australia.

Faith Thomas

Raised in the Colebrook Children's Home in Quorn South Australia, Faith learned to bowl by "chuckin' rocks at galahs". While still pursuing her love of cricket, she graduated from the Royal Adelaide Hospital in 1954 before training as a midwife and going on to



became one of the first Aboriginal nurses in Australia and South Australia's first Aboriginal public servant. Thomas became the first Aboriginal woman to represent Australia on the international sporting stage, playing cricket against England in Brisbane in 1958. During the 1960's Thomas finished her cricket career, playing her final game eight months pregnant. Following her retirement from cricket she went on to have a highly successful career in Aboriginal health and community services, leading the Indigenous ward at the Alice Springs Hospital for two years, in her words one of her greatest achievements.

Megan Davis



Megan Davis is a Professor of Law and is Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous at UNSW, Sydney. Professor Davis is a Cobble Cobble woman from southeast Queensland and is of south sea Islander descent. She served as an expert member of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues until 2016, with portfolios of Gender and Women, Administration of Justice, UNAIDS and UN Women.

She was the first Indigenous Australian elected to the UN body and has been involved in numerous works in Australia including appointment to the Prime Minister's Referendum Council and Expert Panel on the Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples in the Constitution. In 2022 she was a co-recipient of the Sydney Peace Prize for her work on the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Alongside her work on Indigenous reforms, she remains a constitutional lawyer who researches public law globally.

Evonne Goolagong Crawley

As a two-time Wimbledon champion, four-time Australian open champion, French open champion, and a four-time US open finalist, successful is one word for Evonne Goolagong's career. She became the first Indigenous Australian to win a singles grand slam and was the first mother to win a major title since 1914. A Wiradjuri woman, Goolagong Cawley grew up in west NSW where she feared being taken away by the 'welfare man', a typical story for many Indigenous children during the time of the Stolen Generations.



Her passion for tennis began by hitting a ball against a water tank with a fruit box paddle, before moving 522km away from her family to Sydney at just 14 in pursuit of a tennis career. Since 2005, she has run the Goolagong National Development Camp for Indigenous girls and boys, using tennis as a tool to promote better health, education, and employment.

For a young girl in the Australian outback, rising to an international spotlight was merely a dream. But Evonne Goolagong Cawley showed us that with determination, anyone could achieve their goal, including being one of the most successful tennis players of all time. Evonne (also known as 'Sunshine Supergirl') was the first female tennis player to be first in world rankings in Australia (the most recent number 1 being the famous Ashleigh Barty).

She is also the second female tennis player to be ranked number 1 worldwide after the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) was founded in 1975. Chris Evert from America was the first woman to be ranked 1st, however, she only stayed at the top for just 25 weeks. Being the best tennis player in the world is not an easy feat, but less than a year after the establishment of the WTA, Evonne Goolagong beat the former holder of the title.

After her retirement in 1983, she started promoting Indigenous rights and health. By being a symbol to Indigenous Australians, she has paved a way for the next generation of Indigenous athletes - including Cathy Freeman, as well as Ash Barty, who recognises Cawley as an influence and a mentor. She is a representation of diligence and determination for our current Indigenous women and will continue to be for many generations.

- Jen Taylor & Kayden Lam

The Women's T20 ICC

The ICC T20 Women's World Cup is one of the most prestigious cricket tournaments in the world, featuring the top women's cricket teams from around the globe. This tournament is run every two years and is organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC), the commanding cricket body. The first ICC T20 Women's World Cup was held in 2009, becoming a highly anticipated event in the cricketing world ever since. The tournament is played in a round-robin format, followed by a knockout stage, where the top four teams are through to the semi-finals. Over the years, the tournament has seen some breathtaking performances from the players, with various players showcasing their talent and skill on an international stage.



The ICC T20 Women's World Cup has played a massive role in pushing for and developing women's cricket worldwide. The tournament has created a platform for women's cricket to be displayed to a

worldwide audience and has increased the popularity and visibility of the sport. The victory of the tournament has also increased investment in women's cricket, with more and more countries beginning to focus on developing their women's teams.

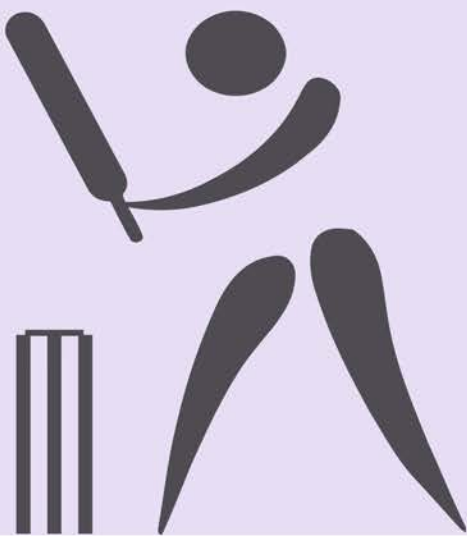
Additionally, the ICC has introduced a Women's Cricket World Cup and Women's Championship, which have also helped in promoting women's cricket with more opportunities for female cricketers around the world.

Australia has been the dominant team in the history of the tournament, winning the title a record six times, including the most recent edition this year. The Australian team is a force to be reckoned with, with players such as Meg Lanning, Rachael Haynes, and Alyssa Healy leading the way. The tournament saw some brilliant performances from players across the teams, with England's Natalie Sciver, South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt and Australia's Beth Mooney being some of the standout performers.

This year in South Africa, the Australian women's team performance in the 2023 Women's ICC T20 Cricket World Cup had been nothing short of outstanding. They continued to play with skill, determination, and passion, winning the finals against South Africa by 19 runs. With such a talented and experienced team, it is likely that they will continue to be a dominant force in women's cricket for years to come and I wish them the best of luck battling it out for the coveted trophy in following tournaments.



-Kiara Nathoo



Büyükanne



Growing up, my grandmother would be the first person I turn to whenever I had a problem. Whether that be about something as simple as tying my shoelaces, or helping me draw our family tree for my school project.




She would always offer her continuous love and support.

Every person has that one family member who means the absolute world, and to me, that was my grandmother.

She was an exceptional nurse, working over 40 years.

She loved to help anybody in need, showing her kind heart to everybody she met.

She is and was, truly selfless.



I grew up without my father, so life was extremely difficult for my mother.

Looking after me by herself and working three jobs was nothing short of exhausting.

So, my grandmother decided to quit her job and help look after me.

Every school event, she would be there.

Every school concert, she would be there.

And every dance concert, she would be there.

She would always make sure she was available for anything I had - and I will forever be grateful for that.

In honour of International Women's Day, I've decided to choose my incredible grandmother as my idol.

She is beyond compassionate and fills the house with boundless laughter and love.

As we grow up, I think that we all need someone to unconditionally love us and for me, that was her.

So thank you grandma.

Thank you for everything you have sacrificed for me to grow up healthy and happy.

No words can describe my gratefulness to you.

Seni seviyorum büyükanne.

-Charlotte Isik

Wesley Women- Linda Dessau

Linda Dessau is a truly inspirational woman as her persisting contributions to the public sector and the legal profession have been invaluable. She has been serving as the Governor of Victoria since 2015 and has been at the forefront of advocating various causes, including the promotion of social justice and equal opportunity.

Born and raised in East Melbourne, Linda Dessau initially studied at St Catherine's School before attending the University of Melbourne. She gained the degree of LLB (Hons.) and later practiced in commercial litigation and family law, signing in the Roll of Counsel at the Victorian Bar. She excelled in her legal fields with her goal to achieve justice in every case she heard.

In 1995, Dessau was appointed as a judge of the Family Court of Australia, where she presided over many complex cases involving child protection and custody laws. She is well-known for her compassion and understanding of family law issues, which has helped her earn the respect and admiration of her colleagues and clients alike.

In addition to her work in the legal profession, Linda Dessau has been an active member of the Wesley College community. She was the first female Vice President of Wesley College Council and has been

involved in the establishment of several initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality, diversity and equal opportunity, both within the college and beyond.



Dessau's passion for education and social justice is reflected in her work as a patron of several educational and community organizations in Victoria, including the Pinnacle Foundation. This institution provides educational scholarships, opportunities mentoring for young LGBTQIA+ Australians to overcome challenges they may face from their identity and allow them to realise their true potential. Her benevolence and undeniable commitment to the community has also been demonstrated through her work with the Hush Foundation, recapturing the healing power of kindness through music and the arts.

Linda Dessau's contributions to the numerous legal cases she has heard, and the Victorian community have been widely recognized, and she has received numerous awards and honours for her tireless work. Premier Daniel Andrews congratulated Dessau for her inclusion in the King's New Year's Honours List for 2023, a "deeply deserved" recognition for her persevering effort in representing Victorians for almost 8 years.

Linda Dessau is an inspiration to women everywhere, and her work in the legal profession, the public sector, and the community has left a lasting mark on Australian society. Her



contribution to the Wesley College community has resulted in the college naming a Glen Waverley campus senior-school house in her name. The Wesley community praises her undeniable desire to create a better world for future generations. Her dedication to social justice and equality is an example for all of us to follow, and we can all learn from her unwavering commitment to making the world a better place.

-Olivia Deo

The Inclusion of Trans Women in IWD



Like people all over the globe, this International Women's Day, I will be celebrating women in the fight for an equal and unbiased world. This year's theme, Embrace Equality, I think is particularly important. Many women with intersectional identities are left out of the fight for gender equality, transgender women in particular. This year I want to celebrate those who may be left out of celebrations elsewhere. So, in no particular order, here are five trans women who I will be celebrating this year.

Marsha P. Johnson

Born in 1945, Marsha P. Johnson was a strong advocate for gay rights. She was present at the Stonewall Uprising in 1969, and afterwards joined the Gay Liberation Front to continue to fight for gay rights. During the AIDs pandemic, she visited many friends in hospital and participated in street activism with AIDs activist groups such as ACT UP. She participated in any memorial services for AIDs victims in the 1980s and early 1990s. For her work Johnson was inducted on the American National LGBTQ Wall of Honour.



Angela Morley



Angela Morley is well known for being one of the only openly trans composers in the world and has won three Emmys in her time for Outstanding Music Direction. First winning in 1985 for her work on Christmas in Washington, and then later for her work on Julie Andrews: the Sound of Christmas and Julie Andrews in concert. She conducted the orchestra for television series, The Goon Show and

composed many hit tunes for Shirley Bassey including "As I Love You" which hit No. 1 in UK Singles in 1959!

Lena Raine

Lena Raine is an American Canadian composer who worked on well known video game soundtracks such as Celeste and Minecraft. Born in 1984, Raine won The American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) award for Video Game Score of the Year in 2019. She was also nominated for a BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Arts). Now she is working on music for Earthblade, a platform video game to be released in 2024.



AJ Clementine



AJ Clementine is a transgender model and influencer, and in 2020 she became the first transgender model for BONDS Australia. Clementine is also a published author, in 2022 publishing her memoir *Girl, Transcending: Becoming the woman I was born to be*. Through platforms such as Instagram and TikTok, AJ Clementine speaks about her experiences as a trans woman, and has brand partnerships with Pandora, L'Oréal, and Disney.

Dylan Mulvaney

Dylan Mulvaney is a well-loved trans influencer, who began documenting her transition on TikTok in March of 2022, and went viral. She has since been a prominent trans rights activist, even speaking with American President Joe Biden about laws surrounding gender affirming care for youth. Mulvaney has become a role model for many trans youths, posting honestly and openly about her journey.




For International Women's Day this year, be intentional about being inclusive in your celebrations, and celebrate the women who have helped us get to where we are today.

How to Write About Teenage Girls: Part 1



Always use at least 12 adjectives to describe a teenage girl's hair. However, only 3 may be to determine her eye colour. Other physical body parts that may be described are the length of her legs (use measurements of "the Nile" if they are long or "stumps" if they are short), the smoothness of her skin and whether she's got a thigh gap or not (she better have one...). These are all very important markers of whether or not she's hot enough to sleep with him. Her exact breast and butt size must also be expressed in no other measurement but centimetres (you whiny Americans are allowed to use inches). Unappealing features on a teenage girl include body hair, crooked teeth, a large nose with a bump on the bridge, uneven lips, big boobs, small boobs, big butts, small butts, stretch marks, pimples, blackheads, whiteheads, big foreheads, oily skin, dry skin, etc. Honestly, the list goes on forever. There's always something in a teenage girl's appearance that could use some correction. Remember that a teenage girls' physical appearance is always used as a gateway into building up her personality.

Your female teenage characters may include: trashy bimbo bullies, ugly bookworms, internally-misogynistic tomboys, "nice girls" and their perky best friends, scary goths, depressed emos, lost loners, sappy stoners, and crazy chicks. A scientific study from the University of Males found that teenage girls can only exist within these stock character types. It is completely inaccurate for a teenage girl to be, say, a trashy bimbo bully type who happens to enjoy grunge music and Jane Austen novels. They don't exist.



Fat girls always get bullied. They are the outcasts of society who are never seen or heard. They have been degraded and traumatised by the horrible, cruel, popular white girls with hips the width of a

pencil. This situation could also apply to any other type of loner. They are not allowed to have any friends, because nobody wants a girl like that. Except The Male Protagonist. He's a nice guy. He sees her for who she is, and becomes bewitched with her hidden beauty, both inner and outer. He loves how she opens up to him and shows him how deep she is and she reads him her deep poetry and expresses her deep thoughts about the world. Like how Donald Trump is a bad person. It's a fascinating and extremely original opinion for a teenage girl to have. Especially at that age.

A teenage girl needs a dude to help her discover herself. The climax of that discovery is usually when her and The Male Protagonist have sex for the first time. Sex is a magical, mystical activity that helps a teenage girl learn how to embrace her natural beauty and, miraculously, helps them to make important life decisions. For example, sex could help the teenage girl decide to go and become an orthodontist instead of stripper. Always remember that an 18-year-old virgin is the most terrorising situation a girl could ever find herself in. Because when she turns 19, she is going to start stinking up the air with her "I'm a virgin" scent and no male is going to want her anymore and she's going to be lonely and live with her 6 cats for the rest of her life. Without a man making a woman out of her, how is she supposed to transition into who she is meant to be? Therefore, since The Male Protagonist is such a nice guy, he's going to do the honourable thing. He's going to seize her into his arms, kiss her silly and make passionate love to her. The sex scene between these two characters must be hot, steamy and sexy. Nevermind that they're teenagers and probably have no idea what the hell they're doing. Your reader won't care about realism because we all know they came for this bit. Write it as the star of the show, because it's going to write you a big fat cheque. It is not considered child pornography if you describe teenagers having sex in graphic detail. It's just creepy, but eh, anything to get that mansion.

-Amy Lewis

**I'm sorry
that we feel we have
to cry,
to shout,
to stomp our feet
at the top of our lungs and scream
"This is our right"**

**I'm sorry,
it will never be your body,
no matter how you itch
to make that be.**

**I'm sorry
to the girl tucked in childhood,
unaware and sheltered
from the world
she forcefully inherits.
From the sideways looks
that will burn her,
to the bruising in her heart
from wasteful hands;
we never deserved to hold her**



**I'm sorry
for the women in your life,
who take the brunt of it all
when hot air from your head
spews out of your mouth
ineloquent,
uneducated,
utterly embarrassing.**

**I'm not sorry
for the strength I have gained,
or my piercing glare
that I wish would gut you
where you stand
on your patriarchal pedestal,
blocking our view.**

**I'm not sorry
not for the windows I break,
nor the burn in my throat
as I scream with a thousand voices
"Enough."**

-Equality

Ella Brown

The Iranian Women's Movement

The Iranian women-led protest movement has been a powerful force in bringing about social and political change in Iran. This movement, which began in December 2017, has been driven by women who are demanding greater rights and freedoms in a country that has long been dominated by conservative religious leaders.

One of the key benefits of this movement has been the way it has challenged traditional gender roles in Iran. Iranian women have been at the forefront of the protests, leading marches and



speaking out against the government's oppressive policies. This has helped to break down the stereotype of Iranian women as passive and subservient, and has shown that they are capable of playing an active role in shaping their country's future.

The protest movement has also helped to bring attention to a wide range of social and political issues in Iran. These include economic inequality, political corruption, and the abuse of human rights. By raising awareness of these issues and putting pressure on the government to address them, the protest movement has helped to create a more open and democratic society in Iran.

Another benefit of the Iranian women-led protest movement is the way it has inspired other activists around the world. Women in other countries who are fighting for their own rights and freedom have looked to the Iranian women as an example of how to organize and mobilize for change. This has helped to create a global network of activists who are working together to promote gender equality and human rights.

In addition, the Iranian women-led protest movement has helped to promote greater international solidarity. As news of the protests spread around the world, people from all over began to show their support for the Iranian women and their cause. This has helped to create a sense of unity among people from different cultures and backgrounds, and has shown that the struggle for women's rights is universal.

Despite the many benefits of the Iranian women-led protest movement, however, there is still much work to be done. The Iranian government has responded to the protests with violence and repression, and many activists have been arrested and imprisoned. But the resilience and determination of the Iranian women and their allies around the world give hope that change is possible, and that one day all people will be able to live in a society that respects their rights and freedoms.



-Tanay Toshinwal

Aussie Theatre Icons

Women and Non-Binary people make up such a large part of the performing art's community here in Australia, I thought why not, for International Women's Day, highlight some amazing women and non-binary performers.

I was fortunate enough to attend &Juliet's "Preview 0" and it just showed me how amazing and diverse the theatre world is. The theatre is a world for anyone, not just what Shakespeare wanted (all men). Shows like &Juliet, Six the Musical and so many more are allowing women, non-binary, and trans artists from all over to be appreciated.

There were so many amazing performers and creatives I could talk about in great detail across so many current and past Australian theatrical productions, however, here are just a few. I urge to look into all these amazing performers and go see their shows if you can afford. However, many of them post amazing covers, videos from shows, and other clips of them online, check them all out.

Lorinda May Merrypor

Lorinda (she/her) is a Kuungkari and South Sea Islander woman who is pathing the way in the arts. Lorinda is such a strong performer who commands the stage. She brings so much depth to every character she plays. She is currently performing in &Juliet the Musical at the Regent Theatre, Melbourne as leading lady Juliet.





Casey Donovan

A Gumbaynggir and Dungari woman who has a powerhouse voice. Casey Donovan has a distinguished career, starting in Australian Idol when she was 16 years of age. Casey more recently has just completed the Australian 9 to 5 tour playing Judy Bernly and now is performing alongside Lorinda in &Juliet as Angélique.

Blake Appelqvist

Blake (they/them) is a Māori non-binary performer stealing so many people's hearts across Australia. Blake has played such a variety of roles in current and new productions including Australian Yve Blakes, Fangirls, where they played the lead singer of the True Connections, Harry. Currently Blake is starring as Romeo in &Juliet.



Baylie Carson

Baylie (they/them) is an Aussie Non-binary artist who is killing it over on the West End playing Anne Boleyn. Baylie has allowed so many to see into the behind the scenes of Six, including seeing little costume changes such as bike-shorts instead of a leotard, done by the West End Six Costume department to help Baylie be most comfortable and confident in their role.



Brianna Bishop

Brianna (she/her) is a stunning performer who brightens up everyone's day. Starting all the way back on Australia's Got Talent in 2010, Brianna is now on the big stage blowing people away with her performances as Amber Von Tussle in the Australian Production of Hairspray the Musical. Check out Brianna Bishop on the Broadway Unplugged YouTube Channel for some of her amazing vocals.

Riley Gill

Riley (they/them) is a queer and non-binary up-and-coming performer. After training at Brent Street, Riley is now making their professional debut in &Juliet, playing Imogen and Benvolio. They are showing so many younger non-binary individuals that they can do it, they can take that stage and be a star.



Yve Blake

Yve (she/her) is a screenwriter, songwriter and playwright who has taken Australia by storm with her new musical Fangirls. Fangirls has won numerous awards including the AWCIE Award for Musical Theatre, Sydney Theatre Award for Best Mainstage Musical, Matilda Award for Best Musical or Cabaret and the Green Room Award for New Australian Writing for Musical Theatre. Yve Blake has such an amazing writing style, and I was fortunate enough to participate in a workshop run by her and it was so insightful. I 100% urge to you take part in her workshops if you are able, as well as listening to the Fangirl's Cast Album.



The Women's World Cup Comes Down Under!



Following Argentina's victory in the Men's 2022 World Cup in Qatar, it may come as great news to many football/soccer fans that the Women's World Cup is coming down under in 2023! Being the most prestigious event in Women's Soccer, Australia and New Zealand have the privilege to Co-host the tournament. Games will be played from cities across both countries including in Melbourne at AAMI park. With 32 countries competing from over 6 confederations, our own Matilda's lead by star player Sam Kerr stands as one of stronger teams of the tournament, whereas rival countries USA and England stand as cofavorites to take home the trophy. Placed into group B, the Matilda's face The Republic of Ireland, Nigeria, and Canada in the group stages, and must place in the top 2 of four teams to advance the round of 16. Let's take a look at two game changing players in The Matilda's that can hopefully lead our nation to victory in the upcoming tournament.

First and foremost, one of, if not the best women's player in the world right now, Sam Kerr is a proud Australian from the Western Australia capital

city of Perth. She currently plays for English powerhouse club F Chelsea in the FA Women's Super League where she has 6 goals and 3 assists in 12 games, which are very impressive numbers. Standing at 167cm tall, Sam Kerr is a nimble forward that can burst through defensive lines with impressive speed and skill, which is matched with an equally impressive finishing ability. This lethal combination has allowed her to become the all-time leading Australian International scorer. Earning her senior international debut at the young age of 15, she has since represented Australia in countless tournaments and is a star in the current Australian team. Sam Kerr is an attacking prominence that no team can ignore, and as captain, the expectations are high as for her to lead Australia with a home ground advantage.

Another attacking threat in part of The Matilda's arsenal is winger Caitlin Jade Foord. Being the youngest Australian to play at a World Cup at the age of 16, she is another pacey player with great dribbling and ball control ability. She excels in one-on-one situations and has the ability to take on player after player while running down the wing. She is a multidimensional player that can not only provide goals with her spectacular ranged shooting ability but assists from passing the ball into dangerous areas to her fellow teammates to score. Caitlin Foord along with Sam Kerr are both players with great individual skill, but together, they are an attacking duo that can bring creativity to any team through link up play with teammates, they are players that have the ability to change the tides of any game.

With these two start players and Australia having the home ground advantage, World Cup 2023 is a great opportunity for The Matilda's to take home the world cup trophy. Winning the event would demonstrate the Australian talent in the sport of soccer, which would hopefully lead to development in the sport in both the Men's and Women's games. If anyone has the opportunity to attend live matches or even watch on television, support The Matilda's as they endeavor to put an Australian stamp on the World's Sport!

-Seb Mitkovs

La Fille En Or

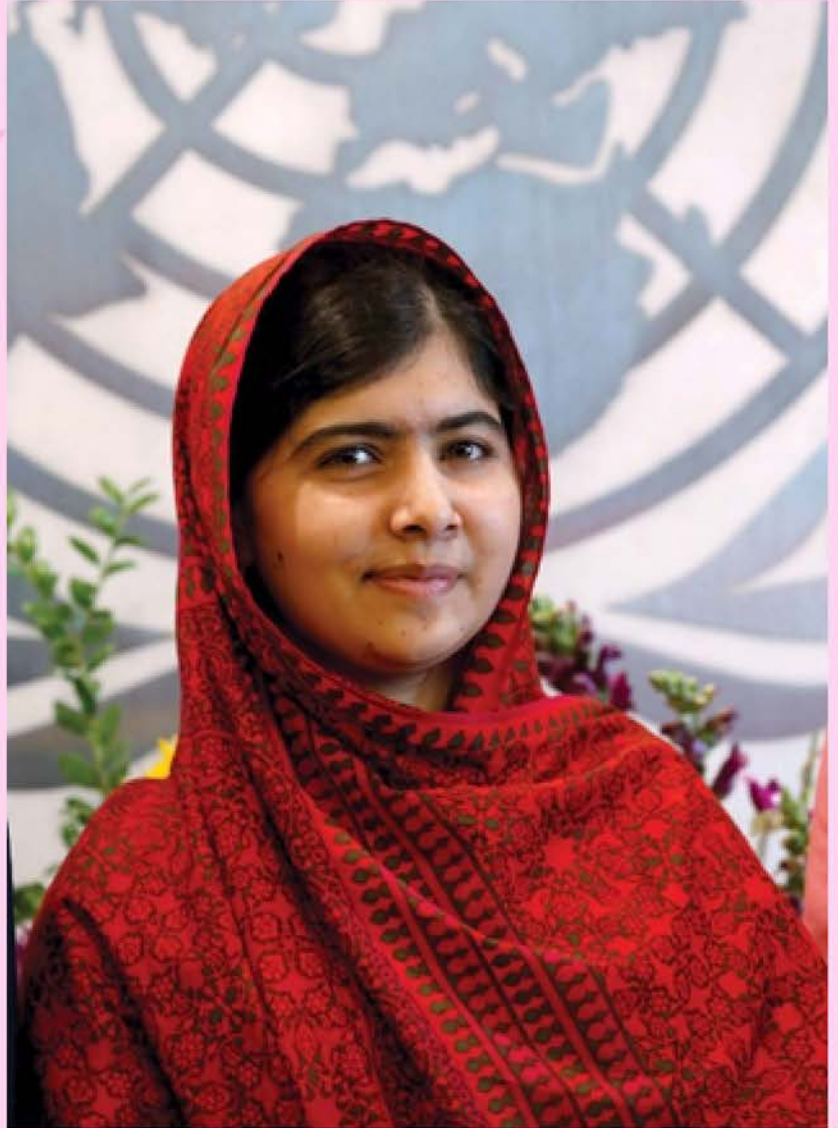


‘La Fille En Or’ directly translates to the ‘The Golden Girl’ in English. This photograph is inspired by the book ‘Strong is the New Pretty’ by Kate T Parker, which is a celebration of girls being themselves. The use of light in this image represents the beauty and innocence in youth. I feel that my younger sister Carmen, (the model), radiates this idea of being limitless in a world full of possibilities. I feel constantly inspired by Carmen’s individuality and love for life.

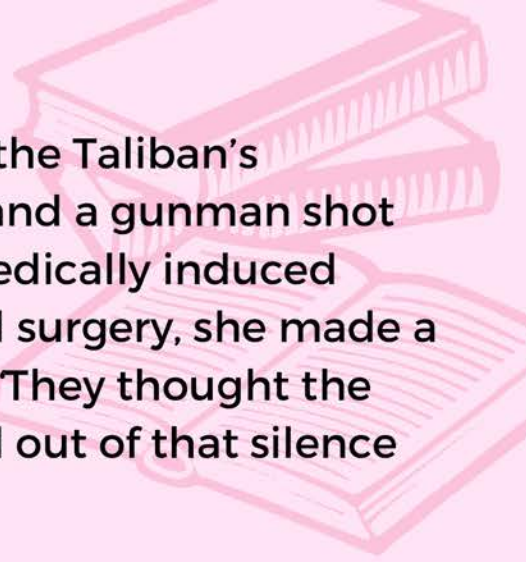
-Nichola Muser

Malala Yousufzai

Malala Yousufzai, born on June 12, 1997, is a social activist that epitomises the values of International Women's Day; Justice, equality, and tenacity. In 2007, Malala's living conditions changed as the Taliban started to become more controlling as a dominant socio-political force in Pakistan. By the end of 2008, Malala was forced out of her school by the Taliban, as over 40,000 female students were displaced. Among other laws, the Taliban revoked women's rights to attend school and participate in cultural activities like dancing.




Malala recognised this injustice, and in 2012, decided to speak out about girls' right to learn on National Television, saying "How dare the Taliban take away my basic right to education?" Under a pseudonym, Malala continued to protest against the Taliban's strict regulations by publishing blog posts. As war approached, Malala and her family evacuated their hometown, becoming Internationally Displaced Persons. Weeks later, she returned with



her father, where they continued to oppose the Taliban's legislations. However, she became a target, and a gunman shot her three times. She was then placed in a medically induced coma, but after months of rehabilitation and surgery, she made a miraculous recovery. She then pronounced, "They thought the bullets would silence us, but they failed. And out of that silence came thousands of voices".

Along with her father, Malala launched the 'Malala Fund', which allowed girls the opportunity to access education. This included opening a school in Lebanon, where over 200 girls were educated. This foundation permitted 130 million girls to attend school. Malala's bravery was recognised by the United Nations, as July 12th was named 'Malala day' in honour of her activism. Furthermore, Malala was appointed as the U.N. Messenger of Peace to promote girls' education. She was then awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, making her the youngest Laureate at the time, at the age of 17 years old.

Change began to develop, with the United Nations launching a campaign that called for the education of all children worldwide. This eventually led to Pakistan's first 'Right to Free and Compulsory Education' Bill, after 2 million people signed a petition demanding this.



Malala is an inspiration to women across the world, being recognised as an international symbol of the fight for women to be educated. As we approach International Women's Day, it is important to recognise those who sanction our freedoms, including Malala Yousufzai.

-Taya Crommelin

They may not see my ability, but I do.

Women in Tech

The gender gap in the tech industry has been a persistent issue that has been widely discussed in recent years. In a global industry worth approximately \$5.2 trillion (Hughes, 2023), only 28% of the workforce is female (Lynkova, 2023).



So why aren't females joining the tech industry? The tech industry has been highly male dominated since the start of the millennium, with women unrepresented in a numerous amount of tech related fields such as software engineering, computer science and data science. Gender stereotypes and biases, hostile work environments and limited female role models and mentors are some of the many reasons leading to the depletion of women in tech.

I didn't realise this issue was so prevalent until I had my own experience of facing gender-based discrimination in the tech field. During the later portion of 2022, I attended a university open day for one of Melbourne's most prestigious universities. I went to the university heavily interested in pursuing a degree in software engineering. As I entered the tech lecture hall, the vast majority of students in the hall were male. You may think that this may just be

because females aren't interested in pursuing a degree in tech, but I think this problem stems far greater than that. As I left the lecture theatre, I approached one of the lecturers to discuss options regarding software engineering. As we lined up to talk to them, we overheard them having in-depth conversations with the male student before us. Discussing his options, being welcoming and unchallenging, empowering, his decision to join said university. I wish I had this experience.

It was then my turn to talk to the lecturer and I said I was interested in pursuing a software engineering degree. As I stated talking their eyes looked right through me. I felt invisible. The lecturer then proceeded to abruptly ask me, "have you seen the minimum ATAR? Have you seen the mathematics prerequisites? Do you know this course requires a lot of Maths?". As I was bombarded with questions, I repeatedly told her "Yes, I am doing the correct prerequisites. Yes, I know it requires a lot of maths. Yes, I know the minimum ATAR.", but they continued to question my abilities. Questions that the boy before me didn't receive.

They then "highly recommended" I aim for a technology course that required far less mathematics and a much lower ATAR. I questioned that if my gender expression and identity were different would I get these same questions? If I perhaps appealed to the stereotypes of what a software engineer "should look like" would I receive these same questions? I stood there, taken aback by the words of the lecturer. I wish I could go back and tell them that I am capable, but I felt incredibly intimidated and uncomfortable. Gender discrimination can take on many forms including denial of courses/jobs and exclusion from certain activities. Due to experiences like mine, many females are deterred from the tech industry. I did formally complain to the university, but I was not even given the respect of a reply.

My mother has worked in the tech field since the mid 90's and my experience led me to wonder about her experience as one of the early females in the tech industry. As she commenced her roles in technology project teams in the early 90's she was often the only women in her team. In her early years of working in the tech field she didn't feel

gender-based discrimination and felt she received equity among her male peers. Her company recognised the gender gap in tech and sought to put females into positions. Although, it was never a free ride into jobs, instead “it was like a ticket to the game, not a front row seat”. It wasn’t until a recent position that she ever felt gender-based discrimination, this was particularly in the gender pay gap between her and her peers. “I had males reporting to me with less qualifications, who were paid a higher salary than I was. I tried to address it using the company policies and found I exhausted all avenues of appeal. I then felt compelled to resign because the company was not behaving in an ethical or moral manner. So, I left.”.

So many similar stories to my mum resonate with other women in tech and many other industries. When I asked my mum what kept her going when she felt this discrimination, she said “talking to my female colleagues and feeling supported by my decisions. I know my abilities and worth, and what I bring to the table. I am not going to tolerate discrimination in any form”.

-Chloe Noorman

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IWD Book Recommendations

Reading has always been a big part of my life; I grew up excited for the next time I could go to the library. I got to travel to so many places and see many different authors and artists perspectives through the world of books. The 8th of March is International Women's Day, so in recognition of this day, I will be sharing some of my favourite books featuring strong, unique women as characters or authors.



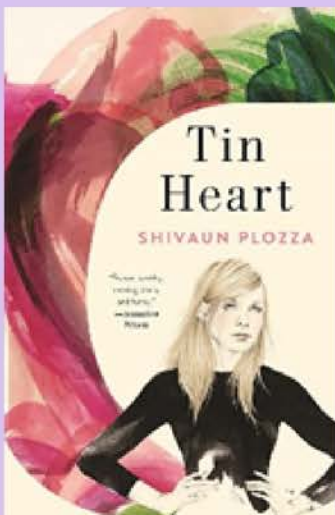
Briseis has a gift. She can grow an apple tree from a seed in a heartbeat, and flowers bloom at her touch. And when she inherits an old house, she suddenly has the privacy to test her powers for the first time. But as Bri starts to magic the house's rambling grounds back to life, she finds she has also inherited generations of secrets. In a hidden garden, overgrown with the most deadly, poisonous plants on earth, a dark legacy lies, waiting for her. And Bri's long-departed ancestors won't let her rest until she finds it.

The first book in a series with links to Ancient Greek mythology, and most of the characters are strong females. I loved the magic elements of this book and how they tied to nature and plants, and for those people who love contemporary books that include Ancient Greek mythology, this is an amazing read.

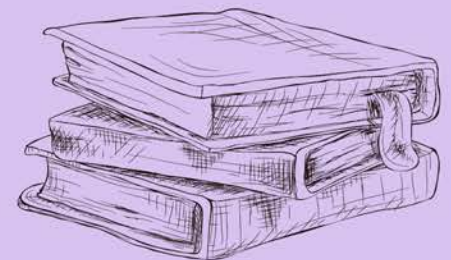
This Poison Heart by Kalynn Bayron



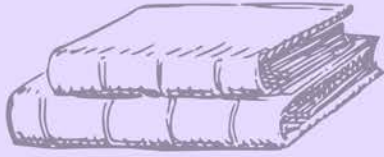
Tin Heart by Shivaun Plozza



When Marlowe gets a heart transplant and a second chance at life, all she wants is to thank her donor's family. Maybe then she can move on. Maybe then she'll discover who she is, if she's no longer 'the dying girl'. But with a little brother who dresses like every day is Halloween, a vegan warrior for a mother and an all-out war with the hot butcher's apprentice next door, Marlowe's life is pretty complicated. And her second chance is about to take an unexpected turn...



Tin Heart has been my favourite books for a few years now, it is set in Melbourne and shows Marlowe finally being able to enjoy herself after being sick for so long but also battling with so many problems with her newly found friends and her loving family. I love seeing Marlowe find new interests and connect with people in a way she was never able to before.



Piper's mum wants her to be 'normal', to pass as hearing and get a good job. But when peak oil hits and Melbourne lurches towards environmental catastrophe, Piper has more important things to worry about, such as how to get food. When she meets Marley, a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult), a door opens into a new world - where Deafness is something to celebrate rather than hide, and where resilience is created through growing your own food rather than it being delivered on a truck. As she dives into learning Auslan, a sign language that is exquisitely beautiful and expressive, Piper finds herself falling hard for Marley. But Marley, who has grown up in the Deaf community, yet is not Deaf, is struggling to find his place in the hearing world. How can they be together?

Future Girl

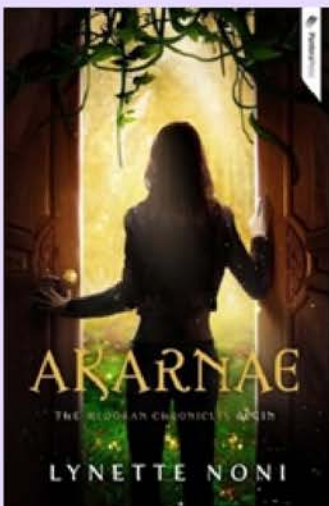
by Kalynn Bayron



A novel set in future Melbourne written by a deaf women about fitting into the deaf community. I really enjoyed seeing how Piper grew and joined the Deaf community. She expresses herself through her artwork and this is included in the book. She learns to communicate with people in a way that makes her feel comfortable, and she makes connections with her community, and I love how she finds new ways to express herself.

Akarne

by Lynette Noni



Dreading her first day at a new school, Alex is stunned when she walks through a doorway and finds herself stranded in Medora, a fantasy world full of impossibilities. Desperate to return home, she learns that only a man named Professor Marselle can help her... but he's missing. While waiting for him to reappear, Alex attends Akarna Academy, Medora's boarding school for teenagers with extraordinary gifts. She soon starts to enjoy her bizarre new world and the friends who embrace her as one of their own. But strange things are happening at Akarna, and Alex can't ignore her fear that something unexpected...

something sinister... is looming. An unwilling pawn in a deadly game, Alex's shoulders bear the crushing weight of an entire race's survival. Only she can save the Medorans, but what if doing so prevents her from ever returning home? Will Alex risk her entire world - and maybe even her life - to save Medora?

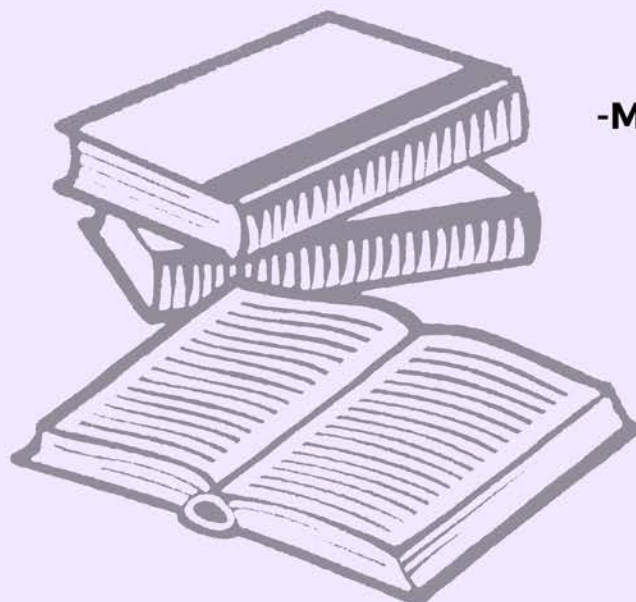
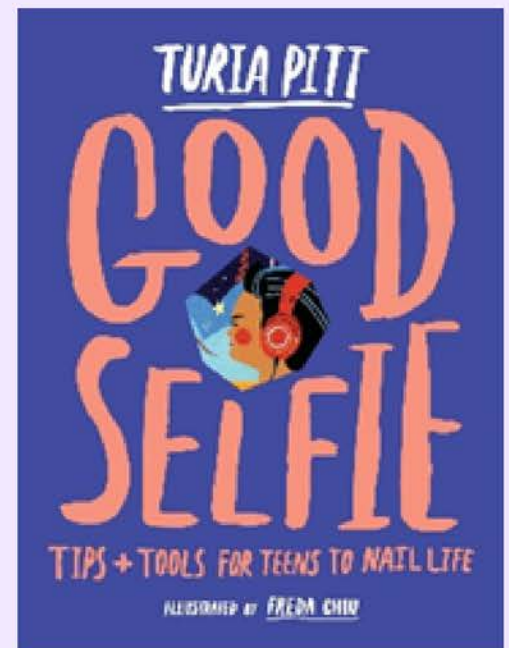
This is one of my favourite fantasy book series, and it's written by an Australian author, Alex is a strong girl who is independent but also loves her friends. She learns how to live in a new world away from her parents and has a lot of potential to grow stronger with help from her friends and teachers at Akarnae Academy. I love the school she goes to and the technologies and wonders of Medora. For any fantasy fans, this book series is a great read.



Good Selfie

by Turia Pitt

This non-fiction book is written by an inspiring woman, Turia Pitt. In 2011 she was running a 100km ultra-marathon when she was caught in a grassfire. When a helicopter got her out of the fire, she was only just alive and had severe burns on 65% on her body. She spent two years in recovery and now writes bestselling books and has raised over \$1 million for Interplast, an organisation who sends volunteer surgeons and health professionals to provide lifesaving surgeries to countries in the Asia Pacific area. One of her books is Good Selfie, which is a nonfiction book on tips for teens to nail life. It covers many topics such as gratitude, confidence, and perspective.



-Mia Ireland



International Women's Day

Oprah Winfrey



Tragically Influential Women in the Arts

Amy Winehouse

You may or may not remember Amy Winehouse as the controversial, thick eyelinered, beehived, tattooed British singer-songwriter, who in 2007 received an, at the time, record breaking 5 GRAMMYS for her iconic album 'Back to Black'.

Amy Winehouse was born on the 14th of September 1983 in Enfield, London to Jewish parents. She attended a Jewish Sunday school as a child, later revealing her perspective of this experience in an interview, saying that they did not teach her anything about being Jewish and she only went to a synagogue once a year "out of respect." Despite that, her connection to music was through her maternal uncles, who were professional jazz musicians. She also had other familial ties to the music industry. At the age of 9, her parents separated, and at the age of 16, she dropped out of school to pursue a music career.

Her unconventional style was immensely influential in the pop industry, creating a path for future female artists to explore. She showed that women in the pop industry didn't have to appear a certain way through her unwavering authenticity and success.





However, her successful 8-year-long career as a sixties inspired soul artist came to a tragically abrupt, yet predictable end. Unfortunately, her expressive and deeply hypnotising husky vocals, creative music endeavours and carefree rugged nature wasn't what captured the media's attention on the 23rd of July 2011. She, like numerous women in the public eye, struggled with substance abuse, mental health, and toxic relationships, which could be interpreted through her songs such as Rehab. These issues

were exacerbated by the media attention and can be observed in documentation of her decline in health over the years of her fame.

However, Amy Winehouse should be known more for her impression on pop culture, rather than just her struggles. She assisted in the inspiration and influence of female artists such as Adele, Florence Welch, Elle Goulding, Lady Gaga, Lana Del Rey and Halsey to rise up in the competitive music industry. She created a norm for women to talk about personal struggles through their music and use their art as an outlet. She has allowed for women to relate to her music and unique individuality. She has inarguably left a memorable impact on the world and was truly a tragically influential woman. Regardless of her rough passing, she should be respected for her contribution to the arts too.

-Chloe Parker

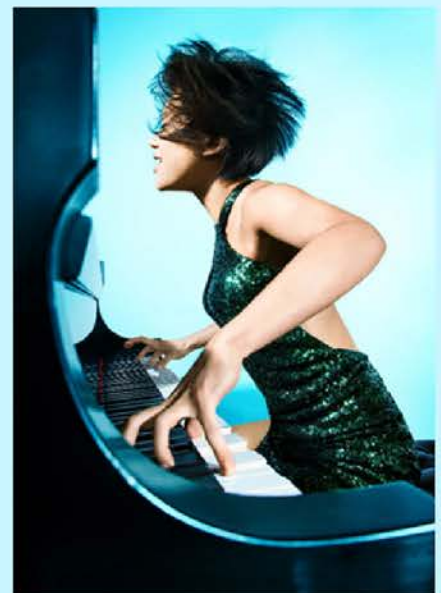
Yuja Wang

Yuja Wang is perhaps one of the most influential classical pianists of our generation. Born in Beijing, China in 1987, this 36-year-old musician has created a space for herself in classical music,



exposing the world to a new era of performance and inspiring others to follow in her lead. Beginning her piano studies at age 6, Wang advanced extremely quickly and at age 7, enrolled to study at Beijing's Central Conservatory of Music. Between ages 11 and 15, she entered multiple music festivals, many as their youngest performer, and in 2003, at age 15, began studying under acclaimed classical pianist, teacher, and administrator Garry Graffman at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Graduating five years later, Wang was a success. Her international breakthrough arrived in 2007, when she was asked to replace Martha Argerich as a soloist in a concert with the Boston Symphony Orchestra at short notice, performing Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. Born in Argentina in 1941, 81-year-old Argerich is widely regarded as one of the greatest classical pianists of all time, and Wang replacing her lead to stardom nearly overnight.

Yuja Wang is known for two things: her pianistic virtuosity and brilliant performances, and the clothes she wears. When researching her, it is very easy to see who agrees with which one of these things; and, more importantly, who doesn't. It is almost predictable with certainty, that in any piece of writing about any of Wang's performances, you will read a comment about the length of



her skirt, the height of her heels or the cut of her dress, sometimes even before any comment about her music is made. In the (uptight) world of classical music, modesty and traditionalism in clothing is almost as important as the music itself, however Wang believes she should be able to wear whatever she feels comfortable in when performing, stating “If the music is beautiful and sensual, why not dress to fit?” Choosing not to wear conventional long black dresses with no form or shape, Wang challenges the stereotype of women constantly being judged and shamed for what they choose to wear, problems rarely faced by men, especially within the classical music scene. She wears hot pink and bright orange mini-dresses with 5-inch heels and continues to deliver exhilarating performances that are fuelled by passion and skill, despite the fact that her clothing is still a hotly debated topic.

It has even gone so far as to have entire concerts characterised not by the music she played, but by the dress she wore. Nowhere else in classical music is this criticism present, and though you might say she is attracting the attention to herself by choosing to wear these clothes, she is doing it for herself and for her music, explaining to an interviewer from the London Telegraph in 2014 “I am 26 years old, so I dress for 26. I can dress in long skirts when I am forty.” Wang recognises that as a soloist performing with an orchestra, people are going to be watching you for the entire performance, and not the musicians playing behind you, she knows that people will be examining what she is wearing and she knows that they now expect something short, bright, and colourful, though the statement here is that her music is the reason she is famous, and that the clothing followed. She wears these clothes whilst performing some of the most technically challenging piano repertoire in the entire world, and her musical abilities are second to none, so hopefully, journalists can start writing more about her music, and less about her clothing.



Womanhood at Wesley

When I was thinking about how this piece should look like, I became interested in what other woman would write about. I realised that every individual would share a unique perspective on the female experience. My goal for this piece became how woman can relate to one another through shared perspectives whilst also demonstrating the individuality of women. To display this, I landed on a three-question interview that was asked throughout the females within Wesley Colleges senior school. My questions were careful not to just show the negativities of being a woman, but also to celebrate the beauty of being a woman.

For female readers, I hope that when you read these responses, you can empathise and feel more connected to other woman.

For people who don't identify as a woman, I wish that I have given you a greater understanding of the woman in your lives.

What do you love about being a woman?

- "Being part of the community where woman protect and support each other".
- "When you achieve things as a woman it shows how hard you worked for it".
- "I love that other woman support woman, it's very inclusive between us all and I feel like everyone understands each other a lot better emotionally wise".
- "In this day and age, I like the power we have".
- "The strength we can show by being a woman, it is a different kind of strength to what men can show".
- "Female friendship - I think woman connect with other woman in a way that men aren't encouraged to. There is something quite special about female friendship".
- "The opportunity to nurture life in my body".
- "I love being a woman because people underestimate me".
- "I think there is a lovely thing about being a woman that you can dress up, one day you can wear a dress, one day you can wear trackies and it doesn't matter".
- "As a woman we have the opportunity to express ourselves in more diverse ways than perhaps a man does".

- "I love having the ability to be unapologetically feminine. I love to dress up. I love being able to perceive the world so romantically".
- "Celebrating each other and how encouraging everyone is".
- "The empowerment and uplifting of one another".

What do you find challenging about being a woman?

- "I find it challenging as it is hard for our efforts to be appreciated".
- "As a woman you have to work so much harder to get your achievements recognised in comparison to men".
- "I feel like people don't always understand us".
- "That there are still stereotypes. Even in your own home you think you have broken the stereotypes, and sometimes you haven't. That you are constantly having to remind people that that's not the way it is".
- "We are still living in a time when there's generations of people who think woman have a certain place and there's younger people coming up and you're trying to find a balance between".
- "Not being able to walk on my own at night".
- "Thankfully, I think our society is coming a long way but sometimes people have a facade of being politically correct but there is still an undercurrent of sexism that exists".
- "How easily woman are cancelled and outcast".
- "How people see just an image and they judge you on that. They see a blonde head and a dress and they assume I'm ditzy and I don't think men get the same treatment".
- "People see the way people present yourself as an invitation to make a judgement".

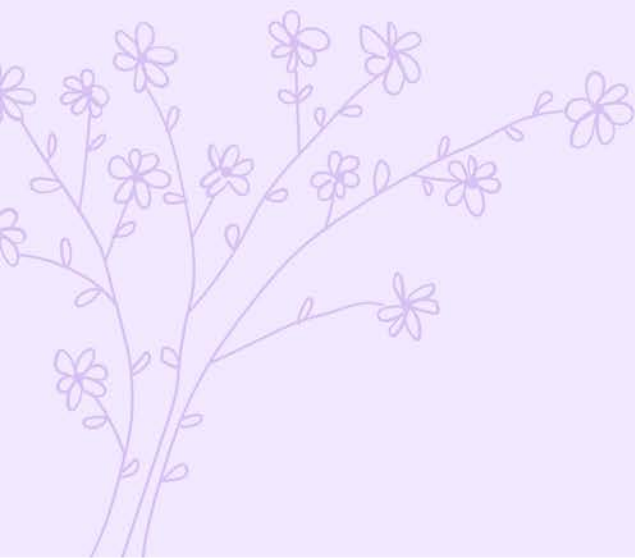
What does being a woman mean to you?

- "Respecting myself and others".
- "You have a unrecognised power within society".
- "I think it is someone that isn't going to give up".
- "Pushing the boundaries of what society expects from us in style".

- "Being a role model for other woman to know that they can be anything they want to be".
- "That I'm a bad B****".
- "For me it doesn't have to be something that is considered classically about femininity".
- "There is something much larger to woman hood than necessarily your anatomy or what you can or can't do physically. But both the good and the bad of existing and living life as someone who identifies as a female and how the world responds to you because of that".
- "Uncomfortable underwear, period pain and not enough clothing with pockets".
- "Being unapologetically yourself. To be strong. To be beautiful. To be intelligent. Being a woman means that you are amazing".
- "Showing my femininity".
- "Celebrating your identity".
- "Being strong and independent."

Throughout the interviewing process, it occurred to me that many of interviewed have never been asked these types of questions. Many of them were perplexed as they thought of an answer to give. Upon reflection, I asked myself these questions and also had difficulty. I am not sure why we don't talk about womanhood more often. From this experience, I believe that these types of identity conversations, regarding one's position within society, should become more encouraged.

-Zara Boynton



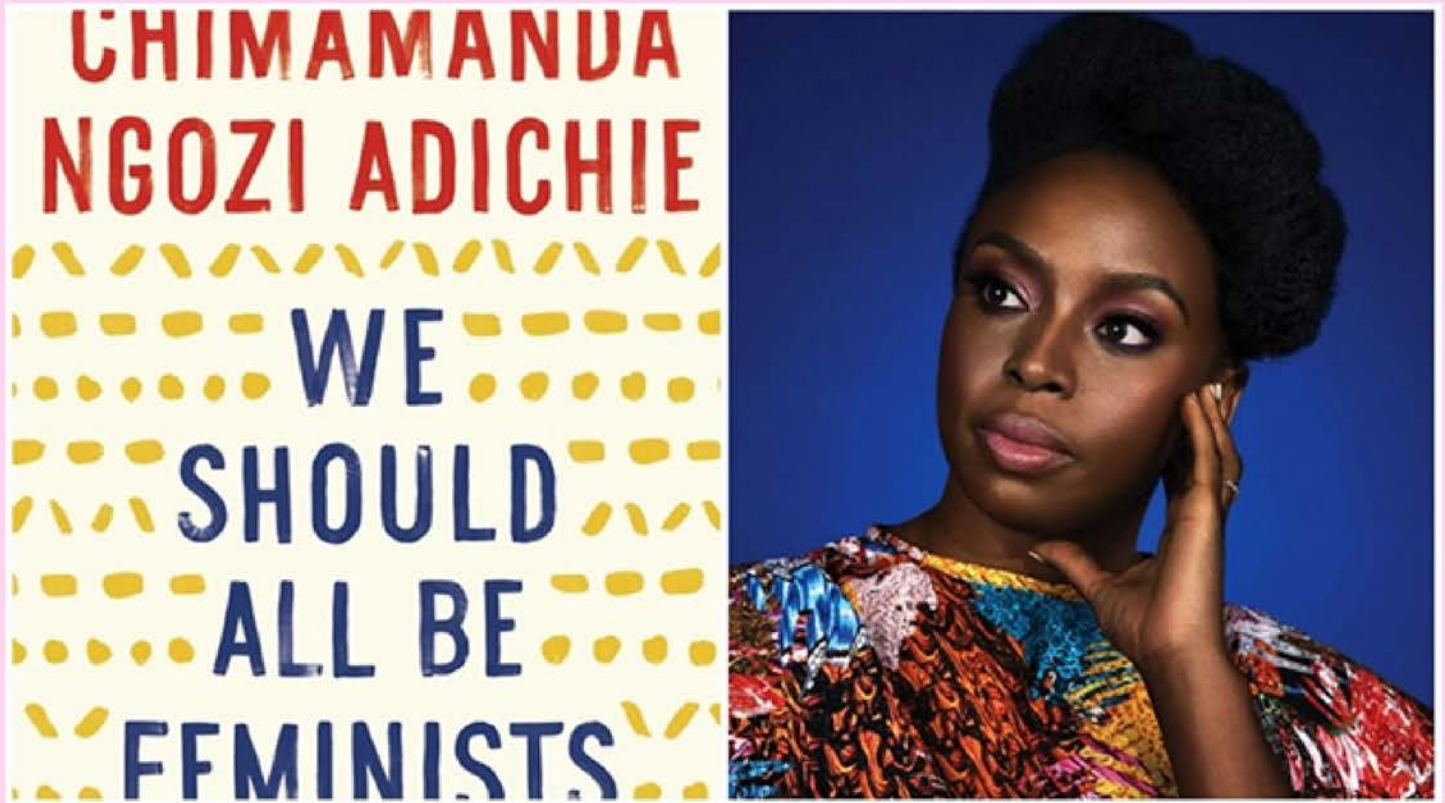
PURPLE HAZE

I AM THE THEME

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S
DAY EDITION

2023

Adichie- Amazing Women



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. For me that is a name that epitomises what it means to be a woman. After studying her texts in class, I found my self in awe of how she, as a woman, has shaped a path towards feminism for young girls and boys alike to follow. On top of her collection of short stories titled 'The Thing Around Your Neck', Adichie has spoken in multiple TED talks, using not only her words, but also her voice as a platform for change. The standout TED talk for me was "We Should All Be Feminists", in which Adichie shies away from the stereotypes that often come with the concept of feminism, instead, highlighting what it really means to be a feminist in modern society. Feminism, as voiced by Adichie, is not about putting woman above men; feminism is inherently equality. Feminism is allowing girls to dream of limitless aspirations, knowing that they, as a woman, have the opportunity to fulfill them, free from the constraints of any aspects of culture or tradition that would stop them from doing so. Feminism is a journey, but one that in many global societies, with the help of powerful female figures such as Adichie, has already begun.

-Imogen Gregory

How to Write About Teenage Girls: Part 2

A teenage girl uses “like”, “actually”, “literally” and “OMG” at least twice per sentence. Because of their limited brain capacity, they typically study subjects such as English. And maybe Biology and Psych if they actually put some effort into their schoolwork instead of gossiping at their desks all day. Don’t even try to make them do Maths. It’s just too hard for them to handle and it’s actually really detrimental to their mental wellbeing.

Your teenage girl is going to love pop music. She likes to put on Australia Top 100 and sing along to catchy tunes as she curls her hair and puts on mascara. Don’t be fooled by the seemingly innocent appearance of a mascara wand. It’s important that you understand its importance to the teenage girl. It is her most dangerous and lethal weapon. Its purpose is to mesmerise, then snatch a guy into a teenage girl’s sharp, fake-nailed grasp. That’s right- teenage girls have been proven to be shapeshifters! They can change their appearances with a flick of their blush brush. Make sure you include this supernatural ability to make your teenage girl character that much cooler. Beware- all your male characters could be their next victim. Her glossy lips could entice them into having a conversation with her about how bad the H&M summer collection was this year.

If a teenage girl does not have a boyfriend, then she has no purpose in your story. Like... Why would you write about a teenage girl if she is not involved in a dramatic relationship? When they inevitably break up because he cheated on her, then she must dress in sweatpants, because that is the main indication that a teenage girl is depressed. Why wouldn’t she be? She has just lost the love of her life- her life has no meaning anymore. However, there is going to be a twist in your story. It turns out that the evil, scheming popular blonde slag, who wants to get with the boyfriend, set him up to make it look like he cheated on her. The teenage girl gasps! She asks him if this is true? Did he really not cheat on her? And he replies, of course he didn’t. He loves her and never wants to leave her side again. They make up and kiss passionately. Then, she starts a catfight with the slag and comes out on top. And, at long last, the teenage girl gets back together with her love, and she lives happily ever after.

Amazing Women: Mums

My mother is a superhero. Not in the traditional crime-fighting, larger than life sense of the word, but rather in terms of who she is as a person.

She grew up in Lake Boga, a small farming country town where seemingly everyone knows everyone. However, she became a city girl studying science at RMIT, from which she would go on to manage clinical research trials into prominent worldly diseases. Now that you know enough about her, let me get into why she is so amazing.

She simply is the *crème de la crème*. Like everyone, she has faced her fair share of adversity, although this never seems to stop her. She learns from these things and moves forward with a glass half full attitude and embodies the saying “when the going gets tough, the tough get going”.

As of late, she has a deep passion for positive communication and acknowledgment of others’ feelings. If I had a penny for every time she corrected me for saying relax or phrasing something negatively, I would be flush with cash. I’ll always appreciate the things that she does like getting me to my many sport trainings and bringing me home to food on the table. Even her persistent insisting that I go to her for help with my maths and chemistry homework because she says she has studied them herself. She just wants me to succeed and do the best that I can.

It’s always been this way. If I need anything she will always drop everything to help me, even if she doesn’t have the time. She continually puts my brother, sister, and myself before what she wants, and she may think this goes unnoticed, although I can guarantee that it does not.

She is my role model. Everything that she does, I try to replicate myself. Her positive communication? I use this within my relationships daily. But it isn’t just the things she does for me, it’s the little things as well. Like when I answer the phone with “Yo” and she replies with “Yo, Adrian”, or how she plays the iPhone games with me that I get her addicted to. All of these things are what make her such an amazing person and a valuable figure to have in my life. So, in appreciation of my mum, and any other women who do the same for others. Thank You.

-Richie Andrew

Equality in Sport

Sport plays a significant part in Australian culture. Millions of Australians are involved in various sporting activities, ingraining it into our national identity. Yet, in spite of our country's great sporting pride, many overlook just how much sport centres around men. The lack of investment on behalf of both the government and general public, combined with cultural norms and historical biases, results in less opportunities for women to be involved in sport or to pursue it as a career path.

I had the honour of talking to Aish Ravi, an ex-Wesley employee, who now devotes her career to improving diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging within the sporting community.

Aish attended Caulfield Grammar and completed a Commerce Degree at Monash University before joining the automotive industry. Although, it didn't take long for Aish to realise that this field of work was not for her, and that she rather wanted to work with people, particularly in education. Aish returned to university, undertaking a Masters of Teaching, majoring in Business and Economics. Being qualified to teach both VCE and IB, Aish obtained a teaching role at Wesley College. When asked about any fond memories, Aish recollected her experience coaching the Girls First Soccer Team, going on space camp to NASA, and on the Central Australia tour.



Having always loved sports and been a strong advocate for equality, Aish left Wesley and founded the Women's Coaching Association (although she is still involved in education and is the Unit Coordinator for the Business

subjects within the Faculty of Monash University). The Women's Coaching Association aims to bring together women and girls who coach sports, empowering others to follow in their footsteps, and ultimately reducing the 1:9 ratio of female and male coaches in the sports industry. Through this association, Aish works with sports clubs and government organisations both locally and internationally to develop their coaching education and implements initiatives to improve equity within these organisations. Although, it doesn't stop there for Aish, as she is also on the Women's Football Council at Football Australia and on the Executive Committee at Football Coaches Australia.

On top of all of her work in the sporting community, Aish is on track to soon complete her PhD on the sociology of sport, with a particular focus on coach education in football (soccer). In doing so, she has thoroughly studied the barriers that women face in sport, and the numerous factors contributing to this. The five most significant barriers explained in Aish's own words are:

1. Gender Bias: Women often face gender bias in sports, particularly in male-dominated sports. This can manifest in a variety of ways, such as being judged more harshly than male athletes, receiving less media coverage, or being offered lower salaries and prize money.

2. Lack of Funding: Women's sports often receive less funding than men's sports, which makes it harder for female athletes to compete at the highest levels. This can lead to a lack of opportunities for women to develop their skills and gain exposure, which can limit their potential for success.

3. Limited Media Coverage: Women's sports are often underrepresented in the media, which can make it harder for female athletes to gain recognition and build a fan base. This can have a direct impact on their ability to secure sponsorship deals and make a living from their sport.

4. Stereotyping: Women athletes are often stereotyped as being less physically capable or emotionally fragile than male athletes, which can make it harder for them to be taken seriously. This can also lead to a lack of opportunities to compete in certain sports or events, as well as a lack of respect from coaches, teammates, and fans.

5. Lack of Role Models: There are fewer female role models in sports than male role models, which can make it harder for young women to see themselves as athletes and to aspire to compete at the highest levels. This can also make it harder for female athletes to find mentors and support networks as they progress in their careers.

When asked how we can overcome these barriers, Aish explained that in order to overcome these barriers and create more opportunities for female athletes, there must be a concentrated effort from sporting organisations, sponsors, media outlets, and the broader public to recognise the value of women's sport.

My final (and most important question) for Aish was “How do you think the Matilda's will perform as hosts in this year's Women's FIFA World Cup?”

Aish, who (at the time of writing) is in Dallas attending the She Believes Cup played between the US, Japan, Brazil, and Canada is undoubtedly a trustworthy pundit. And her prediction? “The Matilda's will do well”, and that the home ground field advantage will result in this being “the best chance we have to win!” Aish also added in that her favourite player is Sam Kerr, a national sporting icon and inspiration to so many young Aussies.



US She Believes Cup Match in Brazil (where Aish is currently!)



U.S. Women's National Team's trophy cabinet.

My Sister



My Sister is my rock.
Sturdy and strong, reliable and tough
Yet behind the rough she shines like gold
Glimmering and polished to a shine
She shimmers brighter than any sapphire

My sister is the wind
She is fluid and changing
She knows how to weave through others
words
Dancing as she breezes past
The cool breeze is comfort
It is a wake up call
And yet it can hold so much affection
A gentle affirmation that things will be
okay
A supportive push in a new direction

My sister is a scarf
She is wooly and torn in places
She is not a 'perfect' cloth
Nevertheless, she is warmth, tranquility
and safety
Bringing laughter, joy, serenity
The fabric hugs me close, barring the cold
from entry

My sister is my family
She is there for me when I can't see
When the dark has shrouded my vision
She becomes my eyes
She is my friend, family, scarf and rock
My sister is the woman I respect

-Anonymous



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