

like formally to express my thanks to both women for their knowledge, their suggestions and their time.

The fact that the three articles from outside contributors (Raewyn Dalziel, Francis Porter, June Starke) are all concerned with the early colonial period should not be taken as evidence of personal bias in the editorial group; it is simply that they were the best. Coincidentally, Mrs Porter's and Mrs Starke's articles, on Caroline Abraham and Sarah Selwyn, complement each other beyond what could have been expected, even had the editors given their conscious encouragement. Dr Dalziel's article on the brief marriage between Donald McLean and Susan Strang provides an excellent example of the fact that research on issues relating to women does not necessarily emanate solely from sources clearly identifiable as 'women's'. Based as it is on one of the Library's largest collections of personal papers, usually perceived as those of a male politician, it provides a moving insight into a marriage, and the life of a particular woman.

I am optimistic that in the future it will not require a special 'event' such as the end of the United Nations Decade for Women to elicit historical research (in a broad sense) into women's issues. The contributions presented here, especially those by the staff, will encourage work on the collections, and hopefully assure future articles for the *Record*.

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