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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I am writing to support the project The Long Table and the fabulous women of The House That Dan Built who conceived the concept.

I have been living in Nimmitabel, in the Monaro region of the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales for 15 years, and I am 72 years old.

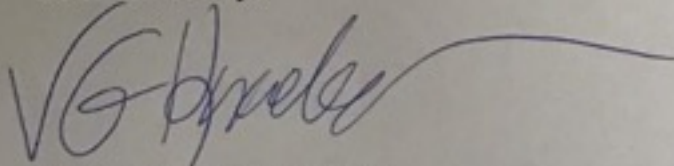
Now there has been a lot of attention lately on men in the bush and their isolation and hardships and yes that's important, however women have always carried the country. They've supported the men, the children, and are all the while often far off working a job in the week to help with the money, because times have been and are tough. The women in earlier days were isolated in muster time, when their men would be away for weeks at a time. There were gold fields in the Monaro and again, women were left on properties to keep things turning when men went away to the gold rush. There are women here with stories to tell.

I just love this idea of exploring women of different generations that lived in the same house. When the parents pass on, very often, a young family is left another property and has to deal with the legalities of it. Donna and her daughter Colleen McCoy share the work of two farms (in the Bombala region). Colleen's a single mother and she and her son farm the second farm. Bev Haylock and Pat Tozer, their mothers before them have a lot of connections here. My own grandmother worked the farm, and her mother died in childbirth. I just think country women, all woman in fact, are strong and have stories to tell.

The commitment country women have to other women in the country is astounding. I'm sure it was out of this commitment that the Country Women's Association (CWA) was born. It's hard these days for the CWA to grow because younger women don't understand what the purpose is. This project could hopefully entice some younger women to join.

I just think this Long Table project will be fabulous for the community here in Nimmitabel and the women on the surrounding farms. My friends and I will be lining up to speak with Natalie and Danielle.

Yours sincerely,



Veronica Gwen Knaebler