

# DISRUPT PERSIST INVENT

AUSTRALIANS IN AN EVER-CHANGING WORLD



## LEARNING RESOURCE

### SECONDARY STUDENT ACTIVITY SHEETS

# NAA

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA



Australian Government

National Archives of Australia

National Collecting Institutions  
Touring and Outreach Program

Visions of Australia

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National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program.

# DISRUPT

**Disrupt – def. interrupt  
(an event, activity, or process)  
by causing a disturbance  
or problem.**

Locate the following records in the exhibition space. After viewing the records and reading the label, complete the activities with your group.





## SAVE THE DAINTREE – 'TO SENATOR DON CHIPP'

'Postcard bombardment' occurs when a large number of people send the same postcard to one person – usually a politician – to call for action on an issue.



**DISCUSS** These postcards were sent in the 1980s, before social media or the widespread use of email. Do you think postcard bombardment could still be an effective method of protest today? Why or why not?

**DESIGN** the front of your own protest postcard that could be used as part of a bombardment campaign. You can choose any issue that is important to you.



## MERLE THORNTON



### READ

Read the exhibition label.

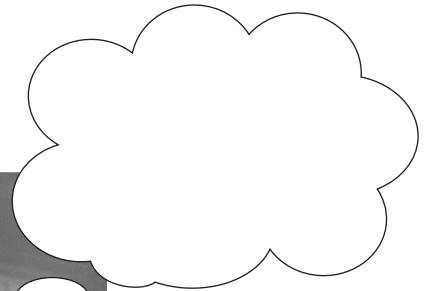
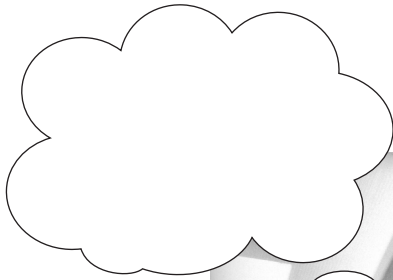
Summarise what the women in the photograph are doing and why.

### DISCUSS

how Merle and Rosalie might have felt when this photograph was taken - and how the men might have reacted to their presence.

### WRITE

your ideas in the thought bubbles below.



### DISCUSS

Why do you think ASIO - Australia's secret intelligence organisation - collected information on Merle Thornton during her career as an activist? In what situations do you think it is justified for a government to monitor its citizens?





## SMOOTHING THE PATHWAY



**WATCH** the video.

**LIST** 3 sources of motivation for Elly Desmarchelier.

1

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2

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3

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**DISCUSS** what Elly might mean when she says 'hard things are hard'.

**WRITE** a quote or saying that guides you in your life below.

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## ROYAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**LOOK** at the poster. Australians were asked to give their ideas about a range of relationship topics as part of the 1974 Royal Commission into Human Relationships.

From the list of topics on the poster, circle those that you think would have been difficult topics of conversation at the time. Put a star next to the topics that you think are still difficult topics of conversation today.



**FAMILY LIFE**

**PARENTHOOD**

**CHILD CARE**

**WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

**SEX EDUCATION**

**FAMILY PLANNING**

**ABORTION**

**SEX CRIMES**

**DISCRIMINATION**

**DISCUSS** the topics you put a star next to with your group. In what ways are these still difficult topics of conversation today?

**IMAGINE** that you are conducting a contemporary inquiry into human relationships. What additional topics would you want to share ideas about?

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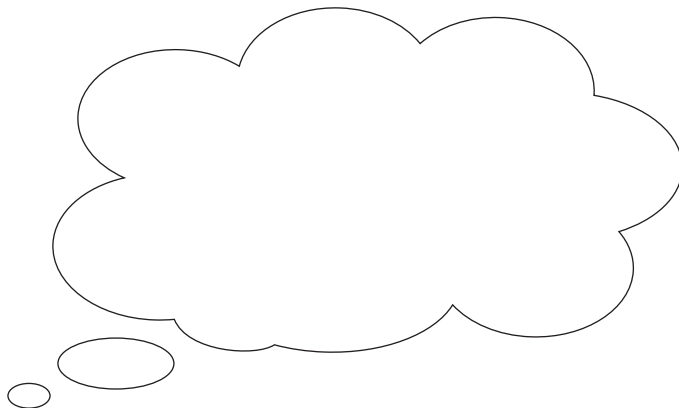
## ELIZABETH REID - 'DEAR MS REID'

**LIST** the prizes offered to boys and girls in the 1973 Russell yoyo contest.



**READ** the reply letter from Elizabeth Reid. **DISCUSS** whether or not you would have been happy with this response.

**BRAINSTORM** other ways that Alison and her peers could have protested the unfair prizes for boys and girls.



**RANK** how strongly you agree or disagree with the statements below, then **DISCUSS** your answers with your group.

### Contests don't need 'boys' and 'girls' divisions

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree



### Women's sport and men's sport is equal today

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree



### There is gender equality at my school

Strongly Disagree

Strongly Agree





## INVENTING WI-FI



**LOOK** at the machine in the case (don't look at the label yet) - what do you think it is?

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**DISCUSS** some ideas as to why it might be important.

Now **READ** the label for the machine - what is the machine? Were any of your guesses close? How is this machine different to what you know of current wi-fi technology?

**WATCH** the video clip '**People didn't believe it was possible**'. In the video, Dr. Terry says 'people really didn't believe that what we were doing was possible.' **LIST** 3 reasons he gave for why people thought it was impossible.

1

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2

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3

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Wi-fi technology has changed the world - imagine what else could be achieved using wi-fi technology. **DRAW** your idea in the space below.



# DISRUPT

The stories you've just explored relate to the theme 'Disrupt'.

It's clear that there are many ways to be 'disruptive,' and that 'disruption' can lead to social change.

For changemakers, disruption can look like -

- Demanding to be seen
- Raising your voice
- Calling out injustice
- Starting hard conversations
- Challenging authority
- Changing the world

**DISCUSS** how you see each of these stories connecting to the theme of 'disruption.'

**RECORD** any questions or wonderings you still have about any of the stories you looked at.

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# PERSIST

**Persist – def. continue in an opinion or course of action in spite of difficulty or opposition.**

Locate the following records in the exhibition space. After viewing the records and reading the label, complete the activities with your group.





## ARCHIVAL RECORDS ARE SO POWERFUL

**WATCH** the video.

**DISCUSS** what motivates Phyllis Williams. Phyllis – who is Gummulkbun on her father’s side and Larrakia Kulumbirrigin on her mother’s side – explains why she feels connected to the land that is her home.



**DRAW** the place that is home to you below.

**LIST** three things that you value about your home.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

**DISCUSS** why it is important for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work for government institutions like the National Archives.

## NEVILLE BONNER

**LOOK** at this letter that was written about Neville Bonner. How many different people appear to have written on it?

**READ** the exhibition label to find out what they were writing about.

**DISCUSS** the following: The government officials writing the letter decided that Neville Bonner should be treated as 'any other man.' What do you think they meant by this?

**DISCUSS** how you believe diversity should be responded to. Is it important to always treat everyone the same, regardless of difference? Are there occasions where it is fair to treat people differently? After his first speech in Parliament Neville Bonner threw a boomerang in the Senate rose gardens in front of the media. Why do you think he did this?

**WRITE** or **DRAW** what you would do after giving your first speech in Parliament.



A large, empty rounded rectangular box provided for the student to write or draw their response to the prompt.



## TRADE UNIONS - ARTHUR BLAKELEY'S UNION TICKETS

**LOOK** at Arthur Blakeley's scrapbook.  
What are three things you notice about it?



1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

**READ** the exhibition label to learn more about what you see in the scrapbook.

**DISCUSS** why Arthur Blakeley might have chosen to keep this scrapbook, and what the items inside might have meant to him.

**SHARE** with the group whether you work, or have worked, in a paid job. If you have a job, was joining a union presented to you as an option by your employer? Do you think union membership is important or relevant for teenagers working today?

## PACIFIC ISLANDERS' PETITION

**DISCUSS** as a group what you know about petitions.

**LOOK** closely at the record – what clues tell you that this piece of paper is a petition?

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**READ** the exhibition label. Who created this petition, and what were they asking for?

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Although many people signed this petition, all the names are written in the same handwriting. Why might this be the case?

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The Pacific Islanders Association represented people who came from over 80 different islands. In **'Records are so powerful'** – a video you can watch in this exhibition – Phyllis Williams points out that 'everyone comes from somewhere.' **SHARE** where you come from with the group. Are 'home' and 'where you come from' the same place for you? Is it possible for more than one place to be home?

## JOHN HOWARD AND GUN CONTROL

**LOOK** Look at the photo of John Howard addressing a pro-gun rally in 1996 about his plan for strict new gun laws. Notice that he is wearing a bullet-proof vest.

**DISCUSS** why he might have worn this to the rally. Why do you think this photo has become a famous image today?

**READ** the letters on display in the case. How do these people feel about the proposed anti-gun laws?

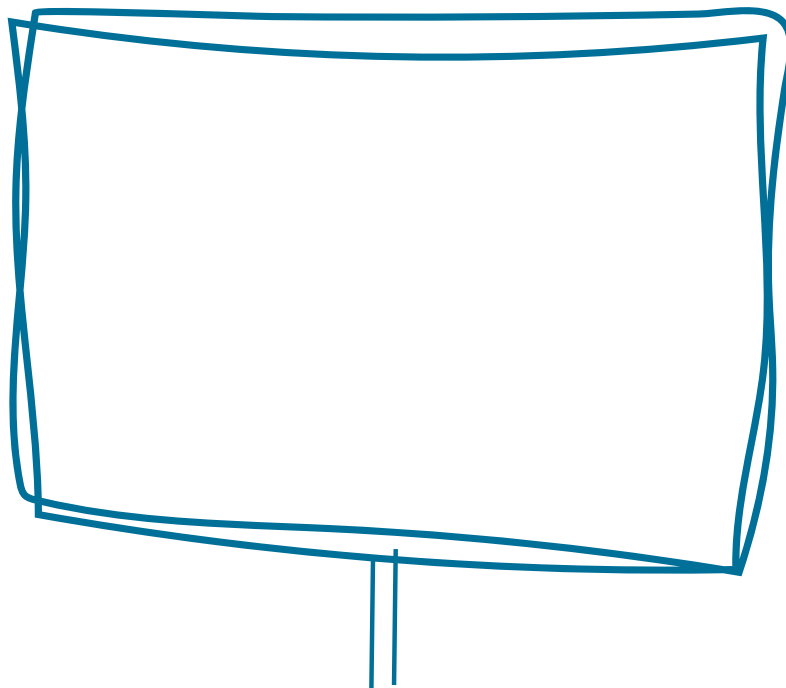
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The USA does not have strict gun laws like Australia. Every year, US school students protest gun violence as part of a movement called 'March for Our Lives.' Australian students often show solidarity (support) for US young people by holding March for Our Lives events in Australian towns and cities.

If you attended a March for Our Lives event, what would your placard look like? **DRAW** it below.



# PERSIST

The stories you've just explored relate to the theme 'persist'.

Social change is often slow and hard-won.

For changemakers, being persistent can mean -

Not giving up

Banding together with others

Facing and overcoming obstacles

Confronting those who disagree with you

Believing in the power of your cause and the change you want to make

**DISCUSS** how each of these stories connects to the theme of 'persist'.

**RECORD** any wonderings you still have about any of the stories you looked at.

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# INVENT

**Invent – def. create or design something that has not existed before.**

Locate the following records in the exhibition space. After viewing the records and reading the label, complete the activities with your group.





## WILLIAM YANG

**NOTICE** the quote from Asian-Australian writer Benjamin Law – “William Yang reminds me that I exist.”



**DRAW** a picture of someone who makes you feel seen.



**READ** the extract of William Yang’s monologue, titled ‘**Sadness**’. Sadness is one of many emotions contained in this powerful work. What other emotions did you detect in the extract from the monologue? **CIRCLE** examples from the list below and discuss why you chose them.

**PRIDE**

**HAPPINESS**

**NOSTALGIA**

**BELONGING**

**LONGING**

**CONFUSION**

**CONNECTION**

**LOVE**

**OTHER:** \_\_\_\_\_

## THE COUNTRY WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION – CWA 'CALENDAR OF PUDDINGS'

**LOOK** at each recipe displayed on the record.

**RANK** the yumminess of three recipes from 'disgusting' to 'delicious'.

Disgusting Delicious

1

Disgusting Delicious

2

Disgusting Delicious

3



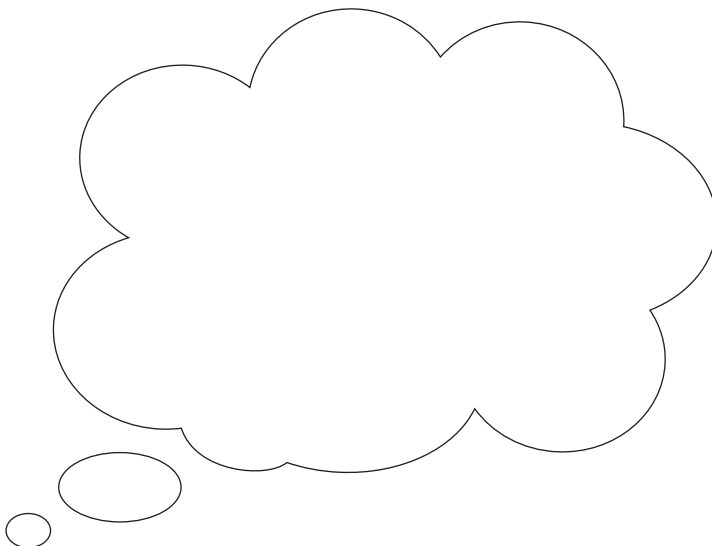
This calendar of puddings was created by the CWA in 1931, during the Great Depression.

**DISCUSS** how social and economic factors may have influenced the recipes in this calendar, including ingredients used.

**IMAGINE** that your class is going to make a recipe book like this one. What special recipe from your family would you contribute?

Compared to this calendar created by the CWA in 1931, **DISCUSS** how the recipes in your class calendar might reflect social and economic changes in Australia.

**BRAINSTORM** other methods community groups can use to raise money today.



## COMMUNITY IS EVERYTHING

**WATCH** the video.

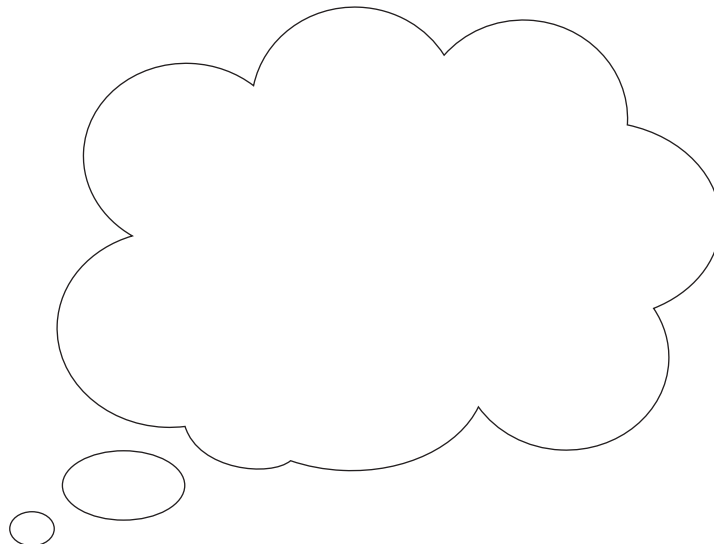
**DISCUSS** what motivates members of the CWA.  
Building the fence was a small change that made a big difference to the community.

**DRAW** something new that you think needs to be built in your community.



**SHARE** with your group how your idea would benefit the community.

**BRAINSTORM** actions you and your community could take to make your group's ideas a reality.





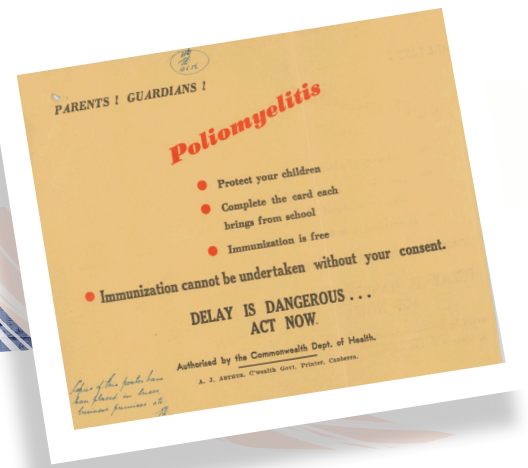
## LIFE-SAVING EFFORTS – ‘DELAY IS DANGEROUS...ACT NOW’

**LOOK** at the poster advertising the Polio vaccine.

**RATE** how effective you think the poster is at advertising the benefits of the polio vaccine.

Not  
Effective

Very  
Effective



**DISCUSS** why you gave the poster this rating. What works and what could be improved?

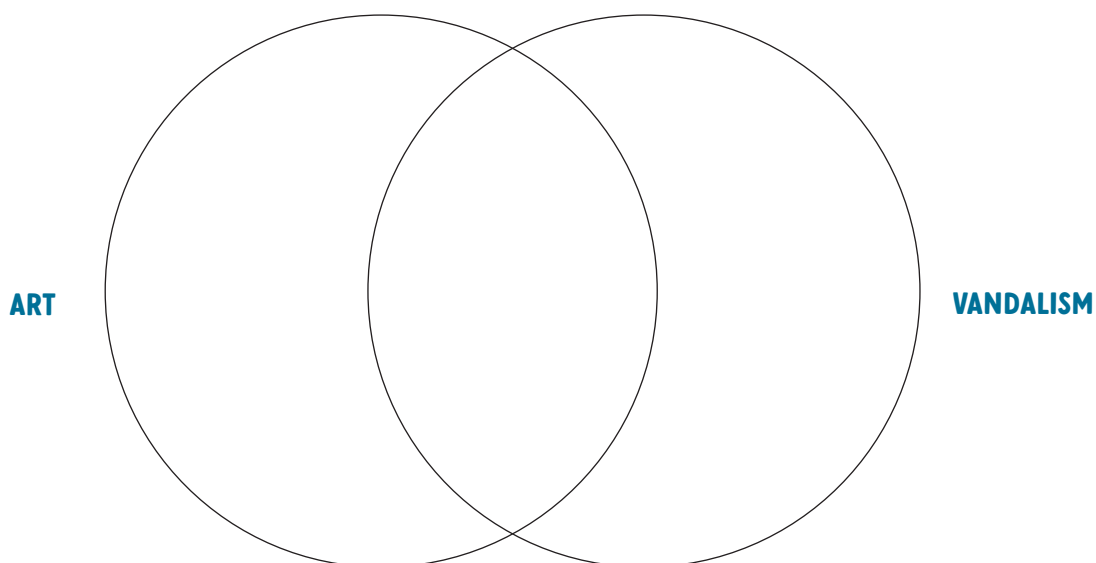
**DESIGN** a new poster below that the government could use to advertise modern public health programs.

## RANDOM ACTS OF CROCHET KINDNESS

**WATCH** the video.

**DISCUSS** what motivates Eloise Murphy. Many would define yarn-bombing as art, while others might call it vandalism. What do you think it is?

**IDENTIFY** the features of ART and VANDALISM in the Venn diagram below.



Eloise Murphy quoted Malcolm Turnbull on love hearts and attached them to the bike. These quotes were about Turnbull's love for his wife. **WRITE** your own definition of love in the heart below.

