



From left: (Great) Aunt Anne with Barbara, (Great) Aunt Linda holding Jane, and Mum with Dianne, c. 1959

LOVING HOLDING HANDS

When (Great) Aunt Anne was young, about 21 years old I think, she had to have a hysterectomy. This meant that she could not have children and therefore it was unlikely that she would marry. (Great) Aunt Linda made the choice to not marry either, and she remained a life-long companion to her sister.

My Grandmother Clare married Harry Warby and they had a son, Noel (born on Christmas Eve) and a daughter Nita (my mother) 7 years later. It was a pretty tough life on a sugar cane farm in Tully, Queensland.

Mum's mother died when she was 11 years old. Noel was 18 and so stayed with his father on the sugar cane farm. Mum went to live with her Aunts Linda and Anne in Sydney. Her father died a few years later.

So two maiden sisters received the gift of a young girl to bring up. And this child grew into an adult under the guidance of her new guardians. Later, she married, and brought 4 more girls into their lives. And I was one of those little girls!

When we were young and lived on the farm in central western New South Wales, we visited the Great Aunts each year for Christmas and also for the Sydney Royal Easter Show. Sometimes, not often, Mum and Dad left us with the Great Aunts while they had a short holiday. The Great Aunts were strict but looked after us really well. Mum used to tell us how they made her wear a hat and gloves and stockings to the beach! We used to think they were eccentric, but kind, (except for grumpy Great Aunt Doris). They even taught us to say the alphabet forwards and backwards before we started school.

Dianne Longley, August 2006



Art & Heritage Collections

Cultural Illumination

Dianne Longley Silver Threads

Silver Threads comprises both an artist's book and a website. The artist's book, *Threads drawn from the past, towards a digital future...* is a combination of a boxed set of postcard images with narratives, family artefacts and miscellaneous family documents, and a website which incorporates the text and images featured in the printed postcards, as well as many more pictures and memories from old family slides.

The set of postcards (unlike the pages in a traditional book) are like a deck of cards which have no prescribed order. They can be reshuffled and read in randomly created sequences. The non-linear nature of memory is referenced in the website with a chequerboard of links to random stories and remembered memories). Chronology is dispensed with, and linkages between stories are eclectic: by words or phrases, or a colour, a smell, a taste, the picture of a toy...

Unlike a book, stories can be added to the website, as forgotten memories resurface over time.

Dianne Longley, August 2006

Accompanying events

coinciding with the
Living Life Impact 2006 Open Day

Artist Talk

12.30 pm Sunday 20 August 2006
Barr Smith Library Foyer

Artist Public Lecture

*Working Processes and
Poetic Intersections*
2.00 pm Sunday 20 August 2006
Ira Raymond Room
Barr Smith Library

In this lecture Dianne Longley will discuss the origins of her ideas and the process of making them manifest, focussing on some works in detail, and how her works overlap and intersect.

Free — all welcome

Dianne Longley is a South Australian visual artist whose work combines traditional and digital processes. She works across a range of media including encaustic and oil painting, pokerwork, printmaking, on-glaze porcelain, small-scale bronze casting, and artist's books. Longley has exhibited extensively nationally and internationally both as an individual artist and part of group exhibitions. She has a Master of Arts from the Flinders University of South Australia. In addition to her art practice Longley teaches at the Adelaide Central School of Art and the Adelaide Centre for the Arts. She regularly conducts workshops and authored *Printmaking with Photopolymer Plates* (1998).

Silver Threads is on display at the University of Adelaide Barr Smith Library 28 July — 27 August 2006 and is open to the public, free of charge, during Library opening hours. For more information please call Mirna Heruc on 8303 4031 or email mirna.heruc@adelaide.edu.au

To view the accompanying website visit

www.diannelongley.com.au/threads/threads.htm

With thanks to the Barr Smith Library, Division of Finance and Infrastructure, Marketing and Strategic Communication and Development and Alumni of the University of Adelaide

Living Life Impact 2006 Open Day