



**WOMEN, ENVIRONMENTS  
AND  
SPIRITUALITY:**

**A STUDY OF WOMEN IN THE AUSTRALIAN ENVIRONMENT  
MOVEMENT**

by

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**A thesis submitted for the degree of  
Master of Environmental Studies**

in

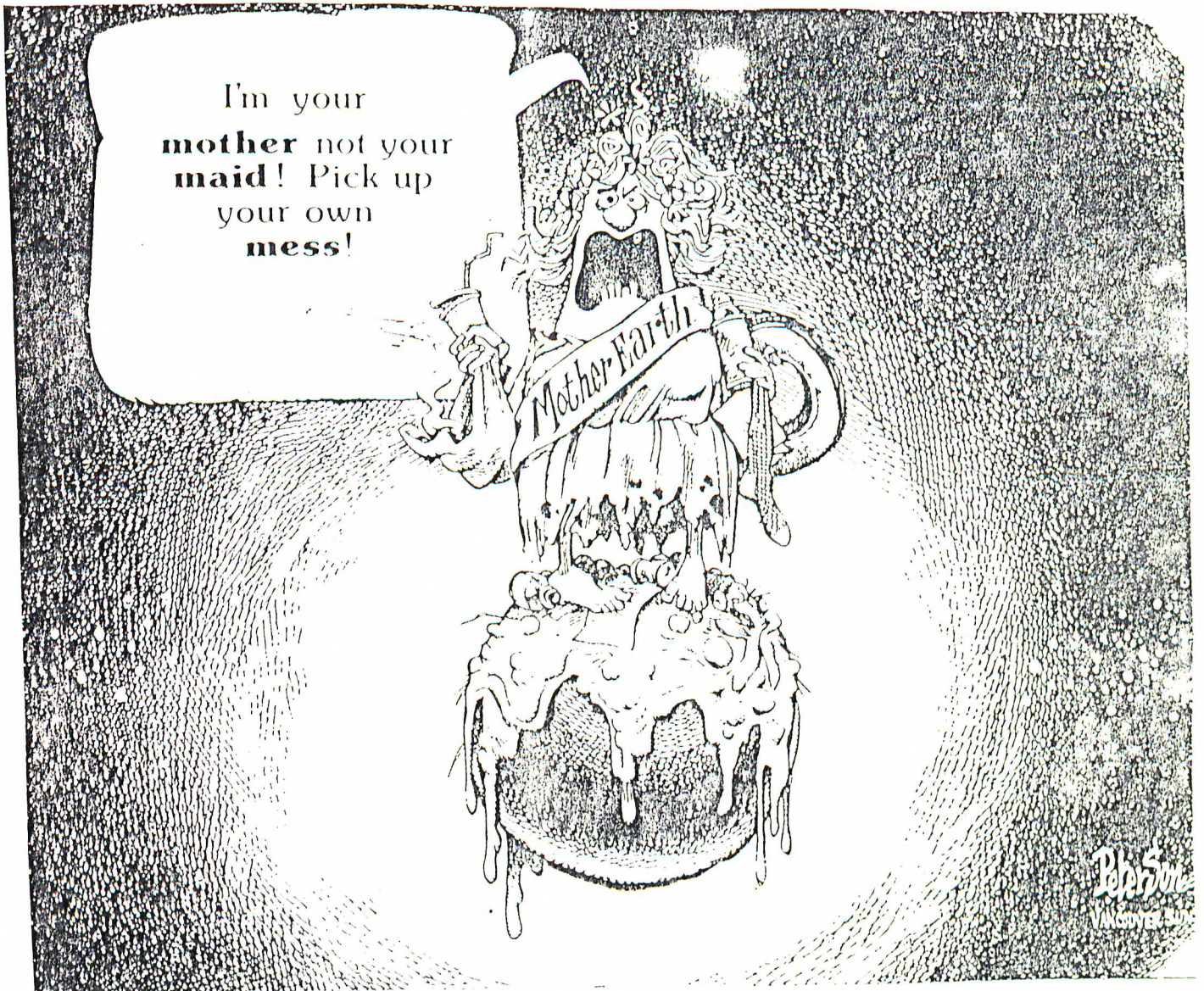
**The Mawson Graduate Centre for Environmental Studies  
University of Adelaide**

**November, 1991**

*Awarded 1992*

DEDICATION

To all those reweaving the web;  
especially the hard working women of Earth.





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
TITLE PAGE .....	i
DEDICATION .....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
LIST OF TABLES .....	v
LIST OF FIGURES.....	v
ABSTRACT .....	vi
DECLARATION .....	vii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	viii
CHAPTER 1. WHY WOMEN, ENVIRONMENTS AND SPIRITUALITY? .....	1
1 INTRODUCTION.....	2
1.1. BACKGROUND TO STUDY.....	2
1.2. ECOFEMINISM: A NEW SYNTHESIS .....	6
1.3 AIMS OF THE STUDY.....	14
CHAPTER 2. ASCERTAINING WOMEN'S PERCEPTIONS: THE RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	16
2.1 INTRODUCTION .....	17
2.2 THE INTERVIEW METHOD. ....	18
2.3 Q-ANALYSIS .....	22
2.4 LIMITATIONS OF THE SURVEY METHODOLOGY .....	25
CHAPTER 3. HEARING WOMEN'S VOICES: RESULTS OF INTERVIEW.....	27
3.1 INTRODUCTION .....	28
3.2 PROFILE OF INTERVIEWEES.....	28
3.3 INTERVIEWEES' PERCEPTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. ....	31
3.4 INTERVIEWEES' VISION OF THE FUTURE. ....	36
3.4.1. INTRODUCTION .....	36
3.4.2. THE WOMEN'S VISION.....	36

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
3.5 INTERVIEWEES' PERCEPTIONS OF WOMEN'S ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION.....	38
3.6 SOURCES OF INSPIRATION AND SPIRITUALITY.....	42
3.7 SUMMARY .....	47
CHAPTER 4. GLIMPING THE DIVERSITY: CLUSTERS OF WOMEN ACCORDING TO THE SURVEY .....	48
4.1 PROFILE OF RESPONSE.....	49
4.1.1 GENERAL RESPONSE .....	49
4.1.2 PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS .....	50
4.2 SURVEY ANALYSIS.....	51
4.2.1 INTRODUCTION .....	51
4.2.2 FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION OF SURVEY RESPONSES.....	53
4.3 CLUSTER ANALYSIS. ....	62
4.3.1 CLUSTER 1.....	62
4.3.2 CLUSTER 2.....	65
4.3.3 CLUSTER 3.....	69
4.3.4 CLUSTER 4.....	72
4.3.5 CLUSTER 5.....	77
4.3.6 CLUSTER 6.....	79
4.4 LIMITATIONS OF THIS SURVEY METHODOLOGY .....	83
CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSIONS: WOMEN IN THE ENVIRONMENT MOVEMENT, ECOFEMINISM AND THE FUTURE.....	86
APPENDIX 1: COVERING LETTER AND SURVEY FORMAT .....	96
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	103

## LIST OF TABLES

TABLE 1 Interview Schedule for Individuals

TABLE 2 Interview Schedule for Groups

TABLE 3 Frequency Distribution of Responses to Survey Statements on Perceptions of the Causes of Environmental Problems

TABLE 4 Frequency Distribution of Responses to Survey Statements on Women

TABLE 5 Frequency Distribution of Responses to Survey Statements on Spirituality

TABLE 6 Percentage Frequency Distribution of Response to Statement Variables within Cluster 1

TABLE 7 Percentage Frequency Distribution of Response to Statement Variables within Cluster 2

TABLE 8 Percentage Frequency Distribution of Response to Statement Variables within Cluster 3

TABLE 9 Percentage Frequency Distribution of Response to Statement Variables within Cluster 4

TABLE 10 Percentage Frequency Distribution of Response to Statement Variables within Cluster 5

## LIST OF FIGURES.

FIGURE 1 Hierarchical Cluster Analysis



## ABSTRACT

This study has explored the diversity that exists among women involved in the environment movement, their perceptions of environmental issues, their perceptions of women's role at this historic juncture, and their sources of inspiration and spirituality. It has explored to some degree the interconnection between these women's perceptions and those of ecofeminism.

Interviews were conducted with 30 women involved in a diversity of groups within the environment movement. A survey was then designed from statements women made in these interviews. This was sent to 215 women in the environment movement across Australia, to determine the diversity of perspectives, existing among women involved in the movement, concerning women, the environment and spirituality.

Results of interview, and analysis of the 142 surveys returned, revealed a diversity of feminist and ecofeminist perspectives, ranging from liberal feminist to radical separatist, a diversity of perspectives on causes of environmental problems, and divergent understandings and attitudes toward spirituality.

Ecofeminism advocates a politics of diversity. It is this perspective which is supported by the findings of this thesis. Ecofeminism as an emergent philosophy of women and the environment movement, needs to engage women in a process of dialogue so that the diversity of women's perspectives and analysis may be deepened and their contributions be actively inserted into the agenda for social and ecological change.

**DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that none of the material contained in this thesis has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma in any institution and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person, except where due reference has been made in the text of the thesis. I consent to this thesis being made available for photocopying and loan, if applicable, and if the thesis is accepted for the award of the degree.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank all the wonderful women who gave so generously of themselves in both the interview and survey phases of this study. I was deeply moved by their sharing and was enormously inspired by their commitment to the earth and their efforts to birth new realities. I am grateful for their shared insight, comments, criticisms and overall for their participation in the study.

I would acknowledge the professional support and advice given to me throughout the duration of this thesis by my supervisor Dr. Sandra Taylor.

I would also like to acknowledge the generous contribution of Anne Dundon to the shape of this thesis, her critique of drafts, comments and proofing have been considerable. For this, her friendship and support, I am truly grateful.

The computing 'boys' — Brian, Darren, Roman and Steve from the Centre, and Bob Wilson of the Psychology Department — need to be thankfully acknowledged for their always ready help, extrication from sticky situations, back-up and advice.

For advice in the initial stages I thank Kay Schaeffer, Nicki for proofing that errant chapter, and Pam for sharing her poems.

I would like to thank all my colleagues at the Centre for Environmental Studies, for maintaining my sense of humour and *joie de vivre* throughout. It has been a privilege working with and along side you all.

Lastly, I would acknowledge the 'cosmic mystery' who has enticed me along this path, opened new realities and potentialities, sustained me in hope and body, and birthed ever greater dimensions of relationship and being.