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Ipswich seminar celebrates great Queensland women from our past

Award-winning writer and historian Susanna de Vries will recount the moving and historical journey of great Queensland women in a free seminar series touring the State in April.

Women's Minister Desley Boyle said the Ipswich seminar would be held on April 22.

Ms Boyle said: "Queensland Women – through their heroic contributions and campaigns over the decades since 1905 – have helped shape Queensland as we know it today."

Member for Ipswich Rachel Nolan said: "2005 is a very special year in that it marks 100 years since Queensland women were given the right to vote and also marks 40 years of voting rights for Indigenous women and men.

"This seminar will give Queenslanders a glimpse of the achievements of Queensland women.

"I encourage Queenslanders – men and women, young and old – to attend this seminar," Ms Nolan said.

She said the seminar was a wonderful opportunity for people to celebrate the journey and achievements of women since they first won the right to vote in 1905.

"The right to vote gave women long-overdue power to influence important decisions and changes," Ms Nolan said.

"This seminar will be of interest to many Queenslanders, as it showcases our past female pioneers such as Emma Miller, Mary McConnel, Joice NanKivell Loch and many more.

"It is the stories of these Queensland women that show how voting rights have empowered women politically, socially and economically.

"Issues such as equal pay for equal work and paid maternity leave did not happen overnight. These rights were fought for by women.

"This seminar tour has been organised as part of a range of activities and community events across the State celebrating Queensland women's right to vote, and I urge Queenslanders to get involved.

"The Beattie Government has funded more than \$80,000 to help groups celebrate 100 years of women's voting rights," she said.

The Ipswich seminar will be held from 11am-2pm on Monday, April 22 at the Ipswich Civic Centre, cnr Nicholas and Limestone streets, Ipswich.

Numbers for this seminar are limited, so to register interest or for further information, visit the Office for Women's website at www.women.qld.gov.au/womenvote or phone 3224 2295.