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International Feminist Book Fair

The first IFBF was held in London in 1984, the second in Oslo (1986) and subsequently in Montreal (1988) Barcelona (1990) and Amsterdam (1992). At the IFBF in Amsterdam, Susan Hawthorne put in a well-presented bid for the next IFBF to be held in Melbourne, which was accepted. With a comparatively substantial amount of money from the Kirner state Labor government the IFBF organisers were able to set up an office in Heffernan Lane and hire workers to begin the monumental task of contacting Australia and international women writers and publishers and devising a program of readings, book launches, discussions and talks.

The 6th IFBF, with the theme Indigenous, Asian and Pacific Writing and Publishing, was held at the Exhibition Building in Carlton on 27 - 31 July, 1994, the first time the IFBF was held in the southern hemisphere. For those five days the Exhibition Building was full of publishers' booths disseminating information and networking with participants; there were dozens of workshops, readings, book launches and many hundreds of participants mingling with the international, interstate and local writers.

The Flying Bookies: International Feminist Writers, compiled by Sandy Jeffs and Natasha Treloar, and published by the 6th IFBF 1994, included profiles and bios of most of the writers who had contributed to the IFBF.