

MAKING HERSTORY

Voices of the Thwaites and Fitzpatrick Women Across Time and Place

by Helen Downey with Lorraine Secen

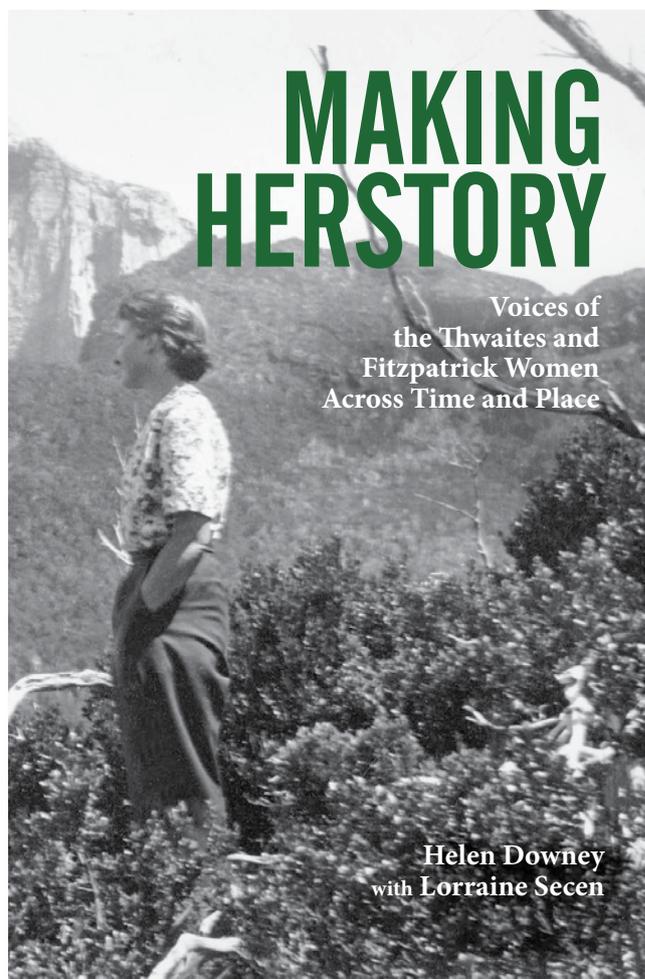
Spanning two centuries, *Making Herstory* is a unique window into the raw pioneer existence of Mary Ann Thwaites, her daughter Ethel, who grew up in the 1870s Victorian town of Queenscliff, and her granddaughter Theodora, who conquered the men's domain of the Tasmanian wilderness in the late 1930s.

Alive with twists and connections, we wonder what Theo's outspoken mother, Ethel, is hiding. Unravelling her secret brings an understanding of why her daughter took to hiking, mountaineering and skiing in Tasmania, never returning to seaside Queenscliff, where one of the most scenic and historically significant places was Thwaites Walk, named for the Thwaites men — Theo's grandfather, uncles and cousins.

This is a significant *herstory*. The voices of these women speak to us through letters, diaries, stories, newspapers and magazines, reverberating across time and changing with each location, adding to the often dismissed, but important, wealth of recorded female experience.

The Authors

Helen Downey has written feature stories for *The Age*, *Canberra Times*, *Sunday Herald* and *The Weekly Times*. She is the author of the *History on Stage* series, and co-author of the *Techne* leaflet series for ACTA. She is a former secondary art, media studies, history and English teacher, and is now a member of the Secondary Art and Craft Standing Committee, and a Queenscliffe Information Centre Volunteer Heritage Guide.



Lorraine Secen holds a Certificate of Business Studies (Law), a Diploma of Financial Planning, a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) and Specialist Accreditation 1998. She maintains an ongoing interest in, and love of, people, their lives and their stories. Woven throughout life has been a great love of family, of photography, of nature, of music and of learning.

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