

You are invited to the next Melbourne Salon at the Alliance Française
51 Grey St., St. Kilda

Wednesday 16th October 2013, 7pm - 9 pm

Colette's France - her lives, her loves

Presented by Dr Jane Gilmour in conversation with Elaine Lewis



Colette's France, published in October by Hardie Grant books, is both a memoir and the extraordinary life story of Colette, who was as famous for her novels (*Chéri*, *Gigi*, the *Claudine* series) as she was for her often controversial life.

Colette's France presents Colette's life through the prism of the many different places where she lived in France. From her childhood in a small village in Burgundy, to her first marriage and the early beginnings of her literary career in Paris of the Belle Époque, to her holiday houses in Brittany and Saint-Tropez, the author invites the reader to follow in Colette's footsteps. The multiple lives and loves of this indomitable woman are revealed – prodigious writer and journalist, risqué performer, lover and seducer, mother and loyal friend, and finally revered grand old lady of letters. She was a passionate woman who realised early in her life that she alone was responsible for her own happiness. Her work celebrated the senses in all their forms, but also plumbed the depths of human feelings. Through the places of her heart, we come to know her.

Jane Gilmour lived in Paris from 1968-72, where she completed her doctoral thesis on Colette. On her return to Australia in 1974, her career went in different directions - the arts and then as Executive Director of the Earthwatch Institute. She retained her interest in France and in Colette and when she retired from full-time employment embarked on researching and writing this book. When she is not researching and writing, Jane Gilmour is a non-executive director on a couple of Boards, a Councillor of RMIT University and a trustee of a philanthropic foundation.

Elaine Lewis founded the Australian Bookshop in Paris in 1996 to promote Australian writers. Her book *Left Bank Waltz: the Australian Bookshop in Paris* was published by Random House Australia in 2006. She is currently co-editor of *Explorations*, the journal of ISFAR.

Colette's France will be on sale (hardback \$45 - all payment methods accepted) and Jane will be signing books after the talks.

Cover charge payable on the night (includes cheese and wine) – cash only please: \$15

Bookings essential: [9925 2264](tel:99252264); themelbournesalon@gmail.com (numbers limited).