

**QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE (AUTONOMOUS), CHENNAI**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

31st Jan, 2019

**REPORT**

**Dr. ANITA HEISS @ QMC**

The Department of English organised a guest lecture and interaction with the author programme at Queen Mary's College in collaboration with the Australian Consulate, Chennai as part of the Australian Fest, on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 at the Assembly Hall. The visit of the aboriginal writer from Australia had sparked a great excitement among the student community and the audience for the programme were from colleges like MCC, Anna Adarsh, Madras University, Quaid - e - Millath , Hindustan among others. The Principal warmly welcomed Dr. Anita Heiss, Dr. Paul Sharrad, eminent Professor at Wollongong University, Australia, Prof. Eugene Pinto, former Principal of Queen Mary's College, the staff and the students. The Principal welcomed Dr. Anita Heiss with the traditional silk shawl and gifted her a specially customized souvenir. In line with the belief of the aboriginals about communing with spirits of the departed souls and recalling Gandhiji on Martyrs' Day, Dr. Maria Preethi Srinivasan invoked the blessings of all the souls who had envisioned the successful role of the college in imparting education to women. She thanked Prof Eugene Pinto for being a trailblazer and introduced the Guest to the audience. Dr. Anita Heiss spoke at length on her books *Yirra and her deadly dog Demon*, *Who am I?*, *Token Koori*, *Sacred Cows*, *Am I Black Enough for You*, *Not Meeting Mr. Right* and other works. She also recounted her writing experiences and also touched upon on the trials faced by aboriginal writers. She emphasised the importance of reading irrespective of the genre and also stated that reading Chicklit would also benefit the reader. She added a note of gaiety with her rendition of a rap song, using her sense of humour and expressive visage to great advantage.. She struck a chord with the audience with her enlightening lecture interspersed with light-hearted banter. She reiterated the fact that it was more important to be human in today's world. Dr. Anita Heiss' life experiences and her positive approach to life gave a very strong message to the audience about surmounting adverse situations and facing challenges with a smile. The interaction with the author segment was lively and the students came up with interesting queries. Dr. Anita Balakrishnan, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of English, proposed the Vote of Thanks. She thanked the Guest, dignitaries and audience and stated that firm belief in being more human and kind resonated with the feelings of the audience.