

Country girl's valuable lesson

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THE Prime Minister's wife Therese Rein is to launch a collection of stories from Australian women including Mosman's Jen Dalitz next week.

The anthology gives a personal voice to a some of Australia's most talented and inspiring women, including Olympian Cathy Freeman.

Stories vary from simple anecdotes to humorous revelations about women's lives.

Dalitz has also contributed her story to *The Modern Woman's Anthology 2010*.

She said the book appealed to her because "it captures a moment in time for very different women and debunks some of the stereotypes about women."

For the book, Dalitz has written an honest account of how, after years of trying to shed her country girl image, she now believes the corporate world needs country values.

In her story entitled *Lessons of the Land*, Dalitz writes:

"In the city people ask what's

in it for me, but at the farm it's what can I do to help?"

Dalitz said she rebelled from her simple country upbringing and left home at 17 for the big smoke.

She became a top executive in finance, but eventually found city life "suffocating".

Now married and the mother of 16th-month-old Ethan, Dalitz and her family regularly escape to a large farm near the Wombeyan Caves.

Dalitz still works as a consultant, mentoring women in business.

"I apply some of those principles from the country - those of women supporting each other and pulling together rather than competing against each other," she said.

In the book, Dalitz concludes:

"And as for a lifetime of trying to shed my country girl image, I know today that it's one of the greatest attributes I possess." Ms Rein will launch the book at the Customs House Library in Sydney on Tuesday. Details: themodernwomansanthology.com.au



Mosman author Jen Dalitz has been included in the new anthology of women's stories.

Picture: DAVE SWIFT