

## Back then

In March 1982, Broken Hill staged its first professional boxing tournament in 26 years. SA middleweight champ Lorry Mack was the main drawcard.

# A story of survival

To mark International Women's Day yesterday, local women and men were treated to many inspiring stories, including one by author Gwen Wilson.

Gwen was in the city yesterday to launch her book at the City Library.

'I Belong to No One'.

Gwen Wilson grew up in Western Sydney. It was a tough childhood. Illegitimate, fatherless, and her mother in and out of psychiatric hospitals. It would have been easy for anyone to despair and give up.

Yet Gwen had hope. Despite it all, she was a good student, fighting hard for a scholarship and a brighter future.

Then she met Colin; someone to love who would love her back. But that short-lived love wasn't the sanctuary Gwen was looking for. It was the start of a living hell.

"I had some pretty tough times growing up, but I want to show that people can recover from domes-

tic violence," Gwen said. "Feeling shame only empowers the aggressors."

"People often ask why I wrote my story.

"A lot of people have an unfortunate past which they want to put in a box, and that's fine, but it doesn't work for me.

"I didn't expect to get published, so I wrote truthfully. It took me years to write it."

She said it was very important to be speaking on International Women's Day as her book showed there was a long way to go.

"Ultimately, I hope my book provides a message of hope, bringing hope to people battling situations who can't see a way out.

"I hope it provides inspiration."

The sessions concluded with afternoon tea and a panel discussion with representative from the Broken Hill Police, Warra Warra Legal Service, Staying Home Leave Violence and the Domestic Violence Advocacy Services.



Author Gwen Wilson with her book "I Belong to No One".

PICTURE: Emily Roberts