



Women's Electoral Lobby Victoria – Report to WEL Australia AGM

Despite another year of lockdowns, the Victorian Branch continues to keep active, albeit slowly and mostly by email and phone contact. It is really good to know that WEL Australia and WELNSW continue to be active. Hopefully the growing numbers of people with double vaccinations will gradually encourage more activism.

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of Women's Electoral Lobby and ideas for celebrations are being talked about. Sadly, Founder Beatrice Faust is no longer with us so it was welcome news to hear about the formation of *Bea's Biography Working Group* in Melbourne earlier this year and to know that wellknown author Judith Brett is researching and writing the book. The Victorian Women's Trust set up a philanthropic fund to cover research expenses.

Sadly in April 2021 we also lost Val Byth, long time convenor of WELVic. Many of us have memories of lively meetings in Kew and lunches catered by Jim Byth.

WEL supports the UNAA Victoria Status of Women Committee and new member Lyndall Mcquinn has been zooming in to meetings from Daylesford. She, and Sheila Byard, have been keeping a watch on GenVic activities which WEL joined this year.

Inbal Rodney Steinberg, who joined WEL last year, continues to work on her campaign for gender equity in primary school reading books.

Really encouraging news is that there is action underway to grow the ACT and SA WEL Branches. As well there are talks about starting up regional groups in the Bermagui NSW and Wangaratta Vic areas. This news is really timely given WEL's 50th Anniversary and a looming Federal Election.

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