

WEL-Informed

The Newsletter of Women's Electoral Lobby NSW

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SPECIAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

This special edition of WEL Informed celebrates the many thousands of women in New South Wales who, over the years, have been members of the Women's Electoral Lobby – and to encourage those who may be thinking of joining us.

WEL, which has always been staffed and managed by mainly volunteers, is unique in its sustained efforts over 40 years to overcome disadvantages faced by women, advocating for policies and practices which will allow women to realise their full potential. The fact that the organisation is still around demonstrates members' strong belief that its job is not yet done and that there are still social injustices and barriers to overcome.

Sustaining a collective organisation of volunteers will always be a challenge. Each member brings different knowledge, passion, skills and abilities, and time they can give. Many have not been involved in lobbying previously. All these contributions have been merged over time to achieve a result of which we can all be proud.

Some WEL members, Eva Cox and the late Joan Bielski come easily to mind, have made an enormous contribution by not only maintaining their membership across these 40 years, but also by being actively engaged in representing WEL and making a feminist difference in many different ways

Through these efforts, and that of many others, WEL has helped to 'level the playing field' by changing society, so the women of today have more opportunities than 40 years ago. Vigilance and pressure on governments must be maintained so that these gains are not eroded.

WEL was an umbrella under which some women hid their identity: it was used as a shield to protect them if they wanted to speak out against injustices while maintaining their very tenuous careers in the public service or in politics.

In this publication, we would like to 'lift the veil' of anonymity by naming the many NSW women who were involved in the first 12 months of WEL. In so doing, we will acknowledge the work of the early WEL women on whose shoulders we are standing – women who, 40 years ago, had the courage to stand against the norms of the day, and put society in general and politicians in particular, on the mat for their attitudes and prejudices.



feminism
is alive and
WEL

EXTRACTS FROM 'MAKING WOMEN COUNT' - MARIAN SAWER

WEL NSW Inc is a member of WEL Australia and is dedicated to creating a society where women's participation and potential are unrestricted, acknowledged and respected, where women and men share equally in society's responsibilities and rewards.

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WEL-Informed, the newsletter of Women's Electoral Lobby NSW, is published bi-monthly and may be received in hardcopy or by email.

Subscription is by membership of WEL NSW for individuals (fees vary) or by institution.

All members are invited and encouraged to contribute or comment. Ideas, comments, articles or clippings from other media all gratefully accepted. Content may be edited. The editor(s) happily read emails sent to welnsw@comcen.com.au and hard copy articles or letters can be posted to the WEL office.

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'In Australia, the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) became another of the new organisations springing up across the globe to take to government the demands of newly mobilised women. WEL's forms of action were initially borrowed from elsewhere but were successfully adapted for local purposes. The young women who founded the new second-wave organisations here were aware of what other new social movements were doing, and of what women were doing in the United States,'(p2)

'WEL was born under unusually favourable circumstances, with 23 years of conservative federal government about to end and with a reform-minded government about to be elected. But WEL did not just inherit favourable political opportunities; it helped create them. The new federal Labor government might have been bent on form, but the Australian Labor Party did not even have a women's policy in its platform when it was elected. In the 1972 campaign it was WEL that put women's issues near the top of the electoral agenda for the first time and extracted commitments from all parties. Even the conservative Prime Minister, William McMahon, agreed to a Royal Commission into the Status of Women. The Labor Party committed to immediate action on equal pay and removal of the luxury tax on the pill, as well as responding positively to a host of other WEL demands. Such was WEL's impact that, for the next thirty years, no major party would go to an election without a women's policy.

But WEL was not only shaping the political agenda, it was also transforming its members' lives. Discovering how little politicians knew about things that mattered was empowering as well as enraging. The increased confidence and skills that came from WEL membership flowed through into new careers and new directions for women who had been marooned in the suburbs with their Bex headache powders. They discovered sisterhood and the power of an idea whose time has come which propelled them into government and into new services designed to take women seriously. They would never look back with nostalgia to those pre-feminist days when decision-making was left to men who thanked their wives for packing their bags but left them and their needs behind.' (p4)

*Making Women Count—A history of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Australia
Marian Sawyer with Gail Radford
UNSW Press Ltd 2008*

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-GROUPS (SOURCE AUGUST 1973 NEWSLETTER)

Finance	Janet Grant
Membership	Valerie Smart
Survey & Questionnaire	Eva Cox, Edwina Doe
Queries	Juliet Richter
Discrimination	Joan Bielski
Newsletter	Jan Aitkin, Shirley Byrne
General Meeting	Frances Giles
Education	Sandra Alexander
Child Care	Ursula Ruja
Abortion Action	Judy Malcolm
WEL Office workers	Liz Windschuttle
Industrial	Edna Ryan, Joan Wilson, June Surtees, Jocelyn McGirr, Priscilla Adey
Family Planning & Health	Dorothy Simons
Consumer Action	Yvonne Preston
Feminist Group	Liz Windschuttle
Poverty	Helen McFarlane
Area Contact Coordinator	Judy Hill
Interstate Contact	June Surtees, Elizabeth Bowles
Publicity	Sue Marsh, Joan Bielski, June Surtees, Virginia Knox
Speakers for meetings	Sue Marsh
Senate & State Elections	
Steering Committee	Janet Austen, Jean Gough
Library and Research	Clare Bird



MEDIA CONTACTS (SOURCE AUGUST 1973 NEWSLETTER)

Unmarried Mothers	Sue Thomson
Education	Judy Hill
Urban Problems	Zula Nittim
Local Government & Child Care	Carole Baker
Child Care	Ursula Ruja
Current WEL research	Eva Cox
Sex Education	Moira Baird
Abortions	Judy Malcolm
Women's Pay & Conditions	June Surtees
Family Planning	Dorothy Nolan
Finance, Budget, Taxation, Education etc.	Joan Bielski
Family Law	Jocelyn McGirr
Industrial and Trade Union Matters	Edna Ryan
Women in the Workforce	Anne Conlon

WHERE WERE YOU IN 1972? RECOLLECTIONS OF BOBBIE BURKE

Well, there I was sitting in the middle of a disintegrating marriage, in denial, still trying to make it work. Two children at school, working three days a week. My own schooling had finished at 14, subjects: religion (Catholic, of course), English, sums (*not* maths, sums), shorthand, typing and bookkeeping. That's all.

How did you get from there to here? someone asked me a decade or so ago.

WEL, I guess. Well, that was certainly the start of it.

My schooling had prepared me for work, and I was employed as a secretary, before and after marriage, in the days when secretaries did shorthand and typing, made the morning tea, and bought the boss's lunch. But in 1971 I was in a very different workplace, with Eva Cox and her small research organisation Q.E.D. the initials of the Latin phrase *quod erat demonstrandum*, which translates as "which was to be demonstrated". And there was much to be demonstrated in the coming years.

I had been referred by a mutual acquaintance, and I well remember my job interview, which took place in a coffee shop somewhere in Oxford Street, near the offices of Q.E.D. It was the days of hot pants and long boots, I remember, and anti-Vietnam demonstrations. The one thing which bothered Eva and her colleague about employing me was that I was married to a policeman. It helped that I told them that he had an anti-Vietnam war badge which he wore inside his coat when policing demonstrations. They managed to overcome their initial doubts, and I got the job, undertaking whatever office responsibilities were needed at Q.E.D. It was a very different work experience for me – an organisation run by women, employing women, independent women.

My nine months there were followed by almost 2½ years at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the NSW Institute of Technology, now UTS. This was my first contact with a tertiary education institution. Both of these work experiences opened up a world I knew nothing about. So much was happening personally, and politically, in 1972. There was something in the air, and Gough Whitlam and Labor were part of it. The world changed, undoubtedly.

The Women's Electoral Lobby was formed in Sydney in 1972, and Eva invited me, or rather insisted I come, to one of the very early WEL meetings where it was decided that in each Federal electorate WEL should run a *Meet the Candidates* event before the coming Federal election. As it happened, I was the only person present at *that* meeting who lived in the Sydney electorate, and it was taken for granted that I should begin organising that electorate meeting. What an astonishing idea! I was given a copy of the famous 'telephone tree' and the names of other WEL members in the electorate, and expected to begin. So I did.

In 1972 I interviewed candidates for the Federal election, specifically Jim Cope, then member for Sydney and later Speaker in the Whitlam Government. I particularly remember his response to a question regarding abortion on demand – Mr Cope assured me that he *did not* believe that the government could demand that women have abortions! In 1974 I co-ordinated and collated results of the WEL candidate surveys in the NSW State election, my interviewee was the new member for Bass Hill, Neville Wran, a very different kettle of fish – that's the Labor Party.

After this practical engagement in politics, Eva suggested I get some political theory, and I took a Politics I course at the School of Humanities, followed by a Political Theory segment at UNSW – both completed more than satisfactorily. I was astonishing myself! Then Whitlam came to power and true to his election promise, abolished fees in tertiary institutions, and made it possible for mature age entry, without matriculation! I applied and was accepted as an external student at the University of New England where I studied part-time while working, later transferring to full-time study and graduating from Sydney University.

I went to WEL monthly meetings at Humanist House on Sunday nights (?) and met the middle class.

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Saturday afternoons I went to feminist consciousness-raising groups where we disclosed the things we didn't like about the men we were married to, and laughed a lot. We talked about 'smashing the nuclear family' and moving into communal living – and some did. I can hardly believe that in 1973 I had asked my husband for permission to go to the first WEL National conference held in Canberra!

And the more I liked myself, the less my husband liked me – naturally. I remember the idea that power was a *material* thing, and if you took even a little for yourself, someone else was losing a little – and resenting it.

In 1975, International Women's Year, I took the kids and left the marriage, I had a tubal ligation, and went to university. In 1976 under the new *Family Law Act* I applied for divorce. And have lived happily ever after ever since.

I sometimes ask myself the question – *just how did I get from there to here?*

WEL? Well of course.

Bobbie Burke - August 2012.



WOMEN WHO WORKED ON 1973 NEWSLETTERS

July 1973 Newsletter

Christine Simpson, Eleanor Langley, Helen McCarthy, Jan Aitkin, Gail Kalnins, Denise Govendir, Aaron Govendir, Valerie Smart

'Toiled' with May 1973 Newsletter

Gay Kalnins, Lynne Gardiner, Helen McCarthy, Liz Windschuttle, Jan Aitkin, Elva Abrahams

April 1973 Newsletter

Helen McCarthy, Carole Baker, Judy Malcolm, Bon Ballard, Janelle Kidman, Denise Govendir, Peggy Caine, Barbara Coddington, Lynne Gardiner, Sue Thompson, Shirley Byrne, Zula Nittim, Liz Windschuttle, Moira Baird, Annette Tait, Jan Aitkin

Newsletter Team

Liz Windschuttle, Helen McCarthy, Jan Aitkin, Bon Ballard, Peggy Caine, Denise Govendir, Caroline Graham, Wendy McCarthy, June Surtees, Janelle Kidman

Note : These were the only times that the newsletter teams were named.

NSW TELEPHONE TREE

As listed in Broadsheet No. 9, Volume 1, (October 1972—NSW supplement) there were 190 names on the Telephone Tree—

A Jan Aitkin, Elizabeth Ahern, Elizabeth Alexander, **B** Carole Baker, Karlene Baker, Patsy Baker, Moira Baird, Lois Barnes, Shirley Bass, Barbara Bates, PJ Barker, Bon Ballard, Carolyn Benn, Joan Bielski, Sherri Bond, Rosemary Bogaard, Elizabeth Bowles, Julie Boyce, Juliette Breen, Betsy Brennan, M Broadbent, Robin Billings, Bobbie Burke, **C** Claire Carmichael, Maureen Carroll, H Carruthers, Laurel Catchpool, N Clayton, Maxine Cogan, Myf Coleman, Eva Cox, Judith Coxon, **D** Judith Dann, Helen Darby, Caroline Davis, Caroline Davy, Keelah Day, Edwina Doe, Virginia Draper, Catharine Ducker, **E** Maureen Earl, Judith Eburn, Vivien Edmondson, Frannie Edwards, Elizabeth Elenius, Joan Evatt, Kerrie Eyers, **F** Susie Farrington, Margaret Fink, Marion Finlayson, Pat Foglisti, Marjorie Forscutt, Margaret Forsyth, Julia Freebury, Jo-Ann Fuller, **G** Una Gault, Leonore Galloway, Lynne Gardiner, Suzanne Gartner, Barbara Gibbons, Maureen Goddard, Sadie Goldberg, Caroline Graham, Gabrielle Graham, Janet Grant, Pauline Green, **H** Patricia Hall, Janice and Mrs EB Henderson, Barbara Hyslop, Harriet Hromas, Meredith Hinchliffe, Judy Hill, Joyce Hawkins, **I** Robyn Ianssen, **J** Patricia Jankovic, June James, Cynthia Jones, Joyce Jones, Shirley Jones, Dwyer, Heidi Key, Janelle Kidman, Vir-Elizabeth Landers, Cheryl Lange, Rob-Alicia Lee, Hilary Lindsay, Helen Lubinoff, Maggie Lynton, **M** Helen McConaghy, Isobel McDonald, Marion McGlynn, Marilyn McIntyre, Megan Malcolm, Suzanne Maple-Brown, Tonia Jan Marsh, Sue Marsh, Ruth Menzies, June Moore, Lyn Moyes, Lyn Murray, **N** Zula Nittim, Gerry Nolan, Marilyn Norrish, **O** Anne O'Grady, Susie Owen, **P** Pam Peelgrane, Joyce Patric, Judith Pearce, Joyce Plater, Janet Pine, Julie Pelich, Barbara Pollock, Veronica Poszwinski, Jan Potter, Joan Prince, **Q** Dawn Quinlan, **R** Phyllis Radford, Sara Rider, Joan Ritchie, Jean Robertson, Jennifer Robertson, Barbara Rogers, Mildred Rogers, Sheila Rowell, Barbara Rowlands, Ursula Ruja, Margaret Russell, V Ryde, **S** Margaret Segulin, Glenda Senbruns, Eleanor Simpson, June Simpson, Verity Shervington, Valerie Smart, Virginnia Smith, Petrina Slaytor, Linda Smith, Pamela Street, Carlie Spencer, Patricia Staker, Philippa Sandall, Joan Stone, Jewell Smith, Shirley Sojke, Julia Sugden, June Surtees, Gillian Sutton, Sandra Symons, Beth Schurr, **T** Pam Tarbutt, Audrey Tarrant, Ann Taylor, Brenda Taylor, Judith Thomas, L Thompson, Jackie Tocker, **V** Jo Valentine, **W** J Wallace, John Ware, Pamela Waugh, Margaret Weate, Sherin Weaver, D.E. Weeke, Anne Weiling, Sara Williams, Joan Willson, Liz Windschuttle, Anne Winkler, Susan Wood, Antoinette Wyllie, Diane Wyndham, **K** Patricia Kelly, Rhonda Kennedy-Virginia Knox, Anne Louisa Krignon, **L** erts Lasley, Diane Latte, Janet Leary, L'Orange, Caroline Lockhart, Veronica McCarthy, Wendy McCarthy, Helen MacDonald, Jocelyn McGirr, Jennifer MacDonald, AE Macken, Judy McVey, Marie Macrao, Mary Marques, Kathleen Mispel, Ronda Montanari,



RECOLLECTIONS OF HELEN L'ORANGE (REPRINT FROM WEL INFORMED JULY 2012)

In 1973 Henry Mayer edited the book "*Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*". Mayer talks in his foreword of the two sub-themes of the book: "...the rise of the issue-lobby of which WEL was the most outstanding; and investigations of the swinging voter."

Of the six articles in the Women in Politics section, five are by WEL members about different aspects of WEL's first year. One of these, "The World of WEL NSW" by Jan Aitkin, Julie Boyce, Caroline Graham, Wendy McCarthy and June Surtees lists the women at the first meeting in May 1972 - Julia Freebury, Helen McCarthy, Wendy McCarthy, Joan Evatt, Victoria Green, June Surtees, Elizabeth Fell, Anne Summers, Caroline Graham, Faith Bandler, Mavis Roberston, Helen L'Orange and Helen Berrill.

Curiously Bob Ellis, who was also present and quite vocal as I remember, is not mentioned.

With the 1972 Federal Election nearing, WEL devised a questionnaire which was used to interview politicians all over Australia. As I lived in the then Prime Minister's seat of Lowe, I interviewed the PM, the late Bill McMahon, together with my neighbour Lynn Dickson, who was a TAFE secretarial studies teacher. I was at the time a councillor on Strathfield Council.

The Sunday Telegraph ran a full page story on the interviews with Bill McMahon and Gough Whitlam (interviewed by Jane Smith and Lindsay Bews). The subheadings were family planning, social services, women at work, discrimination, sex education, education and abortion. The PM was actually quite progressive and had initiated the first funding of long day care centres by the Commonwealth - the 1972 Child Care Act.

On the other hand when asked if discrimination still existed, McMahon said: "*I do not believe in this idea of discrimination. Far better to have combined women's and men's clubs. I would be in favour of a little bit more discrimination my way! I feel we should open women's clubs to men. Sonia has dominion over the household even though sometimes I know she is wrong. I choose all Sonia's dresses.*"

Not surprisingly, in our How To Vote Guide, WEL rated McMahon as "risky."

In his response to the same question, Gough Whitlam said there should be women on the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. In December 1972, Elizabeth Evatt was appointed as the first female Deputy President of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. She was followed in the role by Mary Gaudron (April 1974) who had presented the Government's equal pay case in 1973.

In many parts of NSW there were WEL Groups. As well as attending the main WEL meetings, I was a member of Western Suburbs WEL. About half a dozen of us formed a consciousness raising (CR) group. We met every week for a couple of years and talked about how to live as feminists. My learnings from our CR group have stayed with me all my life.

We had a lot of fun. One of our International Women's Day march chants was "What do we want? Everything! When do we want it? Yesterday!"

The onlookers in George Street shook their heads.

Being active in WEL taught us many skills – how to advocate and write policies.

For me it led to vocational work. I worked as a child care coordinator at Marrickville Council and in 1980 I was appointed to head up the Women's Coordination Unit in NSW. In 1988 I became head of the Office for the Status of Women in Canberra. So I worked for 13 years as a femocrat. During these years I worked with many WEL members on major policies and programs.

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In an article for the Sydney Morning Herald in December 1985 at the end of the UN Decade for Women, I wrote:

"So where will women go from here? We will continue to advocate what are called women's issues. New issues will emerge. Others like education will be reworked.

Men still bash, rape and murder women: women still cannot move easily into many areas of work: the value of women's worth to society is still undervalued: women's poverty and homelessness is of growing concern: women's responsibility for parenting still outweighs the responsibility taken by men. So the women's movement's work on women's issues is far from done."

Since then we have seen some great improvements. Girls are doing well in education. Violence is now condemned rather than condoned. Equal pay is closer. There is a greater appreciation of the systemic nature of discrimination. The paradigm is shifting.

Over the forty years since WEL began I have worked with many brilliant women. The second wave of feminism has done extraordinary work.

These days, activists are relatively thin on the ground. We work collaboratively and rely on each other's areas of expertise to put together our policies such as those on the WEL website <http://wel.org.au/index.php/the-issues/>

I hope you will be able to join us at one of the 40th Anniversary celebrations around Australia over the next few months. Come and meet up with WEL women and talk about the past and, more importantly, about the future.

ELECTORATE CONTACTS/CONVENORS (FROM AUGUST 1973 NEWSLETTER No.12)

Joan Willson—Banks
Christine Simpson, Judy Hill —Barton
Deirdre Harrison, Angela Berrell, Ditta Bartels—Bennelong
Anne Weiling, Margaret Bourn—Berowra
Sue Nagy, Elva Abrahams—Bradfield
Jill Spilsbury—Calare
Jean Gough—Cook
Patricia Degens—Cowper
Gina Palmer, Patricial Clark —Cunningham
Sue Gates, Karen Wilson—Darling
Dawn Quinlan—Kingsford Smith
Sheila Collison—Lyne
Eleanor Simpson—Mackellar
Wendy Lindgren—Newcastle
Vera Howard—New England/Armidale
Jane Brown—North Sydney
Margaret Jenkins, Frances Malyon—Parramatta
Denise Govendir—Phillip
Wendy Batty, Valeria Axtens—Richmond
Sue Barton—St George
Shirley Page—Sydney
Helen Hurwitz—Warringah
Phyllis Radford—Wentworth
Marie Macrae—Western Suburbs

Judy Hill—Cordination of contact/convenors



WOMEN MENTIONED IN THE NEWSLETTER/MINUTES FROM AUGUST 1972 TO SEPTEMBER 1973

Name	Area of involvement
Abrahams, Eva	Bradfield electorate contact
Aitkin, Jan	Editor of newsletter, survey committee, telephone tree, fundraising birthday party, planning group for WEL structure, asked questions at political meetings, publications committee, article on WEL's support for Abortion Law Reform, meeting of WEL Bennelong
Alexander, Sandra	Education group
Allen, Sue	Motion on librarians
Austen, Janet	Senate elections Steering Committee
Baird, Moira	Telephone tree, proposal for structure of WEL, Contact for electorate of Bennelong, Education sub-committee, chaired meetings, media contact on sex education, sex education report, appointed to local government
Baker, Carole	Telephone tree, media contact on local government and child care, worked on newsletter, article on thalidomide, report on women in local government, delegation to Mr. Whitlam.
Baker, Suzanne	Monitoring sexist advertising
Ballard, Bon	Telephone tree, newsletter team
Battye, Wendy	Richmond electorate contact
Berrell, Angela	Bennelong electorate contact
Bielski, Joan	Publicity committee, Discrimination Group, telephone tree, media contact on finance, budget, taxation, education, etc. wrote letters to SMH on removal of discrimination in job vacancies, letters to newspapers/politicians
Billings, Robyn	Telephone tree, Bradfield electorate contact
Boland, Jean	Held meeting of Bradfield electorate
Bollard, Bon	Donations to WEL
Bowles, Elizabeth	Interstate contact
Boyce, Julie	Publicity Committee, Telephone Tree, chaired General Meeting, maternity leave submission
Brent, Marianne	Held meeting of Warringah WEL
Brown, Margaret	Seconded a motion on waffle
Burke, Bobbie	Telephone tree, took minutes at numerous meetings, held meeting of Senate Elections Steering Committee, proposed an action group to collect research on female employment and wage rates
Burns, Ailsa	Appeared on Panel on need for pre-school day care
Burrows, Sue	Group for Discrimination against pregnant schoolgirls
Byrnes, Beryl	Legal Investigation group
Caine, Diana	Women's Commission
Caine, Peggy	Newsletter group
Chandler, Gail	Transport in ACT, finance group
Clark, Pat	Wagga Convenor, Farrer electorate contact
Coddington, Barbara	WEL Berowra electorate contact, worked on newsletter, organised National conference, took minutes at a general meeting, motions on conduct of WEL members
Coffey, Shirley	Article in SMH on Woman heads union

Name	Area of involvement
Collison, Shiela	Lyne electorate contact
Conlon, Anne	Research group, Poverty group, Industrial Group, member of delegations, letters written, submissions written, public enquiry requested on value of women's work, proposal for structure of WEL, made submission to Gough Whitlam on areas for Adviser on Women's Issues
Cooper, Nola	Women's Commission, motion that WEL accept no money from political parties
Cox, Eva	Telephone tree, Survey and Questionnaire group, propose structure for WEL, discussion on thalidomide issue, media contact on current WEL research
Cullen, Anne	Finance group
Darby, Helen	Telephone tree, attended women's lib meeting, should equal right to employment be included in Bill of Rights
Davidson, Caroline	Child care and survey group
Davies, Stephanie	Berowra electorate contact, worked on the conference with Barbara Coddington, seconded motion for ALRA seminar
Degens, Patricia	Cowper electorate contact
Deveson, Anne	Chaired the Paddington meet the candidates
Dimech, Mary	National Conference of Social Work students
Dodd, Beverley	Hosted WEL Parramatta meeting
Doe, Edwina	Telephone tree, Survey and Questionnaire group
Downer, Helen	Donated newsletter to the archives
Downes, Helen	Started cooperative babysitting
Editor	Many articles in the newsletters were unattributed
Elenius, Elizabeth	Telephone tree, Hawkesbury by-election meeting
Endacott, Hilary	WEL badges
Erskine, Judith	Meeting of WEL Sutherland
Evatt, Joan	Telephone tree and motion
Fischhof, Jenny	Planning 'ban the bomb' demonstration
Fitzgerald, Judy	Forming a Sydney University WEL
Forscutt, Marjorie	Telephone tree, took minutes at two general meetings
Freebury, Julia	Telephone tree, article on ALRA, Setting up a pregnancy advisory service, abortion law reform
Friedlander, Julianna	Letter to editor
Fry, Joan	Child Care action group

Name	Area of involvement
Gardiner, Lynne	Telephone tree, worked on newsletter, rent-free use of basement for office
Gates, Sue	Darling electorate contact
Giles, Frances	Co-ordinating people to take minutes at general meetings, contact for Area Contact group, general meeting organisation and agendas, took minutes of several general meetings, general meeting contact
Goddard, Maureen	Telephone tree, discussion on thalidomide, motion on Affiliation
Gough, Jean	Cook electorate contact, Hughes, electorate contact, meeting of WEL Sutherland, Senate and State elections steering committee
Govender, Denise	Philip electorate contact, newsletter group
Graham, Caroline	Telephone tree, newsletter group, Research and Library group, discussion on WEL spokeswomen, report on National Conference, Industrial group
Grant, Janet	Telephone tree, Finance group
Green, Victoria	Publicity Group, Discrimination group
Hale, Sylvia	Women's Commission
Hannan, Adrienne	Parramatta group
Harrison, Deidre	Bennelong electorate contact, fund raising group, Survey and Questionnaire group
Healy, Leone	Article on WEL State Conference
Hill, Judy	Telephone tree, contry contact convenor, Barton electorate contact, proposal for WEL structure, organised the telephone tree, St. George and Sutherland child care report, media contact on education
Hinchliffe, Meredith	Telephone tree, Queries, Discrimination and complaints group, donated newsletter for the archives, worked on National Conference, left to go to the ACT
Hogan, Sue	Discussion on Feminism, meeting of Bradfield WEL
Holland, Kate	Fund raising BBQ
Howard, Vera	New England/Armidale convenor
Hromas, Harriet	Telephone tree, discussion on thalidomide, comment on motion
Hughes, Robin	Panel presentation on need for pre-school day care
Hurwitz, Helen	Warringah electorate contact
Husband, Sheila	Parramatta group
Iannesen, Robyn	Telephone tree, Library and Research group, submission to Taxation Review, meet the candidates in Bennelong
Jenkins, Margaret	Parramatta electorate contact
Jobson, Sue	4 corners document, new baby Emma
Johnston, Tony	Paper on non-use of contraception by Australian women

Name	Area of involvement
Kalnins, Gay	Worked on newsletters
Kelly, Patricia	St. George electorate contact, telephone tree
Keig, Nita	Women's Commission
Kelly, Margaret	Parramatta group
Kidman, Janelle	Telephone tree, newsletter team
Knox, Virginia	Telephone tree, Publicity Committee, attending ALP meeting, wrote letters, St. George and Sutherland WEL meeting, abortion survey, discussion on WEL structure, child care report.
Krinks, Clare	Library and Research group, discussion on thalidomide, article on books of interest, motion on support base for WEL
Langley, Eleanor	Newsletter team, Survey and Questionnaire team
Leary, Janet	Telephone tree, Library & Research group, newsletter at short notice
Lee, Alicia	Publicity Committee, Telephone tree, discussion on thalidomide, discussion on WEL spokeswomen, report on anti-drug campaign against headache pills
Leeman, Jenny	Report from Border WEL
Lewis, Liz	Berowra conducting Child Care survey, article on the State Conference
Lewis, Robyn	Analyse newspapers and magazines for attitudes to women
Liebe, Tina	Examples of sexist advertising
Lindgren, Wendy	Newcastle electorate contact
Lipscombe, Lenore	Family Planning and Health group
Little, Mary	Berowra electorate contact, worked on National Conference with Barbara Coddington
L'Orange, Helen	Telephone tree, general meeting at Helen's house, discussion on thalidomide, Publicity Committee, Country contact group, coordinating meetings for western suburbs
Macken, Anne	Telephone tree, survey and questionnaire group, Publicity Committee, letters to Australian, SMH, report on conference
Macrae, Marie	Telephone tree, Western Suburbs electorate contact
McCarthy, Marion	Yass convenor
McCarthy, Helen	Telephone tree, Newsletter and Publications Committee, newsletter team, discussion on thalidomide, abortion counselling service, Chaired general meetings, structure for WEL NSW, delegation to Mr. Whitlam
McCarthy, Wendy	Telephone tree, Publicity Committee, addressed Wollongong University, evaluation of candidates, chaired general meetings, North Sydney electorate BBQ, speakers for meetings group, media comments, newsletter team, ad hoc group to investigate women in finance industry
Mackie, Jan	Feminist meeting
McConaghy, Helen	Telephone tree, report of the Child Care Survey group
McDonald, Audrey	UAW, child care action group

Name	Area of involvement
McFarlane, Helen	Industrial group, article on Poverty survey, offer to mind small children, contact for questionnaires on Poverty
McGloughlin, Susan	Meeting of WEL Warringah
McMillan, Mavis	Meeting of WEL Bradfield group
McGirr, Jocelyn	Publicity Committee, discussion on thalidomide, Industrial group, media contact on family law, proposal for WEL structure
McVey, Tonia	Telephone tree, Berowra electorate contact
Malcolm, Judy	Telephone tree, Child Care Action group, Women's Commission, newsletter group, Abortion Action Group, Media contact on Abortion, Abortion counselling service
Mallick, Jann	Contact for Parramatta and contact for electorates of Reid, Prospect, Mitchell and Chifley
Malyon, Frances	Parramatta electorate contact, motion on donation, raffle tickets
Maloney, Helen	Panel on need for pre-school day care, report on child care delegation to Prime Minister
Marsh, Sue	Telephone tree, Survey and Questionnaire group, meet the candidate at Paddington, Publicity Group, report on sociological-type questionnaires
Marsh, Jan	Telephone tree, discussion on WEL spokeswomen, motion on money, letter from WEL Mackellar about abortion law reform
Martin, Barbara	Analyse radio for attitudes to women
Nagy, Sue	Bradfield electorate contact
Naughton, Glen	Child Care Group
Niland, Carmel	Employment group
Nittam, Zula	Telephone tree, abortion survey, newsletter group, media contact on Urban problems
Nolan, Dorothy	Media contact on Family Planning
Norman, Judy	Info on WEL Wagga group
Norman, Jeannine	Newsletter group
Page, Shirley	Sydney electorate contact, meet the candidates at Glebe Town Hall
Palmer, Gina	Cunningham electorate contact
Pearce, Judith	Telephone tree, contact for Finance and membership group
Peelgrain, Pam	Telephone tree, Electoral Co-ordinator
Petrie, Joy	Publicity group, discussion on thalidomide, discussion on WEL spokeswomen
Pine, Janet	Telephone tree, Parramatta group
Power, Margaret	Industrial group, women's film and discussion at Sydney Uni
Preston, Yvonne	Consumer Action Group
O'Connor, Bernadette	Vatican roulette
O'Dwyer, Barbara	Education and Retraining Group
O'Leary, Evelyn	Letter

Name	Area of involvement
Opdyke, Pat	Paper on non-use of contraception
Owen, Margaret	Motion to deposit copies of newsletter with National Library
Pitt, Vicki	Newsletter group
Pratt, Noel	Consumerism and the Environment
Price, Dalwyn	Meet the candidates in Taree
Quinlan, Dawn	Donated copies of newsletters for archives, Telephone tree, organised WEL dinner, Contact for Fund Raising group, Kingsford-Smith electorate contact
Radford, Phyllis	Telephone tree, Wentworth electorate contact
Rayner, Carol	New England electorate contact
Reeve, Dixie	Meeting of WEL Bennelong
Richardson, Barbara	Meeting of WEL Sutherland
Richter, Julie	Contact for Queries group, took minutes at a general meeting
Robertson, Mavis	Women's Commission
Robilliard, Leonie	Armidale by-election
Roe, Jill	Meeting of Poverty group
Rowell, Sheila	Telephone tree, Warringah electorate contact
Ruja, Ursula	Telephone tree, North Sydney electorate contact, contact for Child Care group, took minutes at general meetings, report on child care survey, media contact on child care, report on Blacktown Council meeting
Ryan, Edna	Equal pay for women, question on working women in Survey, Industrial group, delegation to Mr. Cameron, media contact on Industrial and Trade Union matters, special publications committee
Salt, Andrea	Library and Research Group
Schneider, Emmy	Seconded motions
Scribner, Margaret	Supported motion on lobby building
Sefton, Anne	Paper on complications of Early Induced Abortion
Senbruns, Glenda	Telephone tree, Western Suburbs group
Sharpe, Jan	Analyse TV shows for attitudes to women
Silitonga, Pauline	Meeting of WEL Bennelong
Simons, Dorothy	Family Planning and Health group
Simpson, Christine	Barton electorate contact, newsletter work
Simpson, Eleanor	Mackellar electorate contact
Sleigh, Merrilyn	Meeting of WEL Bennelong group
Smart, Valerie	Telephone tree, contact for Finance and Membership group, coordinate secretariat volunteers, newsletter work

Name	Area of involvement
Smith, Michelle	Donated newsletter for the archives
Smyth, M	Donated newsletters for the archives
Spilsbury, Jill	Calare electorate contact
Staker, Patricia	Telephone contract
Steanes, Judith	Meeting of Education Group
Stratton, Judy	Supported a motion on documentary WEL
Surtees, June	Telephone tree, chaired general meetings, Membership and Finance group, newsletter team, Interstate contact, structure for WEL, meet the candidates in North Sydney, Industrial group, Publicity Group, media contact on Women's Pay and Conditions
Symons, Dorothy	Various motions on Family Planning
Tait, Annette	Worked on newsletter
Tenise, Ruth	Survey and Questionnaire group
Thomas, Joy	Letter to the editor
Thompson, Sue	Worked on newsletter
Thomson, Sue	Media contact for Unmarried Mothers
Walker, Marilyn	Submission for tax deduction for child care expenses
Weiling, Anne	Telephone tree, Berowra electorate contact
Wilkinson, Sheila	Hosted meetings of WEL Mackeller
Williams, Wendy	Had a baby boy
Willis, June	Contact for child care group, meeting of child care group, child care survey
Wills, Margaret	Child care action group
Willson, Sue	Child care group
Willson, Joan	Telephone tree, Banks electorate contact, Industrial group member, donated newsletter for archives
Wilson, Karen	Grayndler and Darling electorates contact
Windschuttle, Liz	Telephone tree, office workers group, Survey and questionnaire group, newsletter team, Sydney electorate contact, arrange venue for general meetings, attending Women's Lib meetings
Wyndham, Diane	Telephone tree, Library and Research group, Contact for Speakers Group

Women whose names only appeared in connection with the telephone tree, work groups or electorate contacts are shown on the other lists appearing in this edition.

Thanks to Anne Barber and Lorraine Slade who put together this special 40th anniversary edition of the WEL-Informed

Next WEL meeting
Wednesday
7 November
6.00pm
66 Albion St
Sydney
ALL WELCOME

New and Renewing Members—A special welcome to new members, and many thanks to all members who renewed their membership in the past month, and especially to those who gave so generously to WEL.

Renewal—If a renewal form is enclosed with your newsletter or included with your email copy, then your membership is now due. We encourage you to renew your membership of WEL as your ongoing support is important to us.

Don't forget to let WEL know if you change your address.

Consider a Bequest to WEL NSW

A bequest enables you to perpetuate your ideas and make a difference far into the future. Please remember WEL in your will.

The following wording is recommended:

'I bequeath the sum of (amount written in words and figures) free of all debts, duties and taxes, to the Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Inc (ABN 50 242 525 012) for its general purposes, and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the Women's Electoral Lobby (NSW) Inc shall be complete discharge to my executors for this gift, and that my executor shall not be bound to see to the application of it.'

WEL NSW Executive

Convenor: Melanie Fernandez
Treasurer: Charity Danquah/Anne Barber
Members: Josefa Green, Helen L'Orange, Laura Maclean, Gabe Kavanagh, Lorraine Slade

**National Co-ordination
Committee Representative**
Helen L'Orange 0425 244 935

WELNSW Office Co-ordinator
Lorraine Slade

WEL Co-ordinator (40th anniversary)
Corina Backhouse

**Auditor
Public Officer** Cate Turner

NSW WEL Groups
Coffs Harbour:
Celia Nolan (02) 6656 1653
Wagga Wagga:
Jan Roberts (02) 6924 6459

**Media Contacts:
Education and Training**
Jozefa Sobski 0403 895 929

**General, Early Childhood Education
and Care, Housing**
Melanie Fernandez 0402 334 286 or
Gabe Kavanagh 0403 976 890

**Disability, Mental Health, Domestic
Violence and Sexual Assault**
Helen L'Orange 0425 244 935

Health
Gwen Gray 0405 193 584

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Office phone/fax 02 9212 4374

To join WEL NSW

Download a membership form from www.welnsw.org.au or phone (02) 9212 4374 for a membership package.

**IF NOT CLAIMED WITHIN 7 DAYS PLEASE RETURN TO:
WOMEN'S ELECTORAL LOBBY (NSW) Inc
66 ALBION STREET
SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
AUSTRALIA**