

## ***Researching WEL's History: short histories, memoirs, newsletters and university theses***

When researching WEL's history the project team was fortunate in being able to draw on the fine array of university theses about WEL, local histories of WEL groups, memoirs published by WEL members as well as the plethora of WEL newsletters and other publications. This paper lists university theses written about WEL in the years 1973–2007, selected publications by WEL members and WEL groups and discusses WEL newsletters.

### **1. University theses written about WEL.**

Anderson, Peter (1973). 'A description and analysis of aspects of the Women's Electoral Lobby (Victorian Branch).' BA Hons, Politics, La Trobe University.

Asher, Louise (1980). 'The Women's Electoral Lobby: An historical inquiry.' MAP History, University of Melbourne.

Brankovich, Jasmina (2007). 'Burning Down the House: Feminism, politics and women's policy in Western Australia 1972–98.' PhD, School of Humanities, University of Western Australia.

Cockburn, Marjory (1999). 'Towards a Feminine Manifesto: The History of the Women's Electoral Lobby, Cairns.' BA Hons, School of History and Politics, James Cook University.

Gorring, Pam (1978). 'The Political Development of the Women's Movement in Queensland.' BA Hons, Government Department, University of Queensland.

Grey, Madeline (2005). 'Second-Wave Feminism and Women's Political Representation in Victoria, 1972–1997.' PhD, History Department, University of Melbourne.

Hill, Elizabeth (1987). 'Working Within the System: the Women's Electoral Lobby fifteen years on.' BA Hons, Government Department, University of Sydney.

Hooper, Anne (1973). 'The Emergence of Contemporary Feminist Groups in Australia: with special reference to the Women's Liberation Movement and the Women's Electoral Lobby in the ACT.' BA Hons, Political Science, The Faculties, Australian National University.

Martin, Ruth (1981). 'The Women in WEL.' BA Hons, History, Monash University.

Nicholson, Joyce (1991). 'The Women's Electoral Lobby and Women's Employment: Strategies and outcomes.' MA, Women's Studies, History, University of Melbourne.

Pott, Omega (1981). 'WEL as a Social Movement.' BA Hons, History, University of Melbourne.

Szramka, Annabel (1986). 'The Interrelationship between Interest Groups and Social Movement Organisations: The experience of WEL 1972–1983.' BA Hons, Politics, University of Tasmania.

Watson, Louise (1982). 'The Women's Electoral Lobby 1972–1982: Sites of conflict in non-party feminism.' BA Hons, Politics, University of Melbourne.

**2. Selected publications only, for other publications consult the bibliography in *Making women count: a history of the Women's Electoral Lobby in Australia*.**

Aitkin, Jan, Julie Boyce, Caroline Graham, Wendy McCarthy & June Surtees (1973). 'The world of WEL (NSW)'. In Henry Mayer (ed.) *Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson pp. 184 -191.

Bielski, Joan (1998). 'Women's Electoral Lobby NSW'. In Barbara Caine et al (eds), *Australian Feminism: A Companion*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, pp. 519-20.

Bielski, Joan (2005). 'The history, organisation and achievements of WEL NSW', WEL–NSW <http://www.comcen.com.au> (also at [welnsw.org.au/About WEL/History](http://welnsw.org.au/About%20WEL/History))

Burnett, Pat (1985). *History of Women's Electoral Lobby, Perth, Western Australia, 1973-1984*. Perth: WEL-WA.

Burns, Sybil (1973). 'WEL in the countryside'. In Henry Mayer (ed.) *Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, pp. 181-83.

Cox, Eva (1973). 'Polling the pollies: a critique of the WEL survey.' In Henry Mayer (ed.) *Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, pp. 193-94.

Degens , Patricia A. (1999). *From Canberra to Coffs Harbour*. Coffs Harbour: Patricia A. Degens

Faust, Bea (1998). 'Women's Electoral Lobby Vic'. In Barbara Caine et al (eds), *Australian Feminism: A Companion*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, p.519.

Fisher, Betty (1996). *A Brief History of the Women's Electoral Lobby (SA) Inc. (Culled from WEL SA Newsletters 1972-1985)*. Second Edition. Adelaide: WEL SA.

Glezer, Helen & Jan Mercer (1993) 'Blueprint for a Lobby: the birth of WEL as a social movement'. In Henry Mayer (ed.) *Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, pp. 169-76.

Glezer, Helen, Jan Mercer & Pat Strong (1973). 'WEL strategy 1972: The methods of a protest lobby'. In Henry Mayer (ed.) *Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, pp.177-80.

Green, Victoria (1973). 'WEL's Canberra confrontation'. In Henry Mayer (ed.) *Labor to Power: Australia's 1972 election*, Sydney: Angus and Robertson, p. 192.

McCarron Benson, Julie (1991). *WEL women: Recollections of some of the first WEL-ACT women*. Canberra: WEL-ACT.

McCarthy, Wendy (2000). *Don't Fence Me In*, Sydney: Random House Australia.

Mercer, Jan (ed.)(1975). 'The history of the Women's Electoral Lobby.' In Jan Mercer, *The Other Half: Women in Australian society*. Ringwood, Vic.: Penguin, 395-404.

Preddy, Elspeth (1985). *Women's Electoral Lobby: Australia/New Zealand 1975-1985*. Wellington: WEL-Australia and WEL-New Zealand.

Preddy, Elspeth (2003). *The WEL Herstory: The Women's Electoral Lobby in New Zealand 1975-2002*. Wellington: WEL-New Zealand and Fraser Books.

Ryan, Susan (1999). *Catching the Waves: life in and out of politics*. Sydney: Harper Collins.

Sawer, Marian (1998). 'Women's Electoral Lobby.' In Barbara Caine et al (eds), *Australian Feminism: A Companion*. Melbourne: Oxford University Press, p. 521

Slonieć, Elizabeth (ed.) (1993). *WEL: 21 years in South Australia*. Adelaide: WEL SA.

WEL (1974). *WEL Said: from the gilded cage*. Dulwich Hill, NSW: WEL-NSW.

WEL (1974). *The WEL Papers: The national journal of the Women's Electoral Lobby 1973/4*. Mentone, Victoria: WEL and Alexander Bros.

WEL (1974). *WEL Reports 1973-74*. Dulwich Hill. NSW: WEL Sydney.

WEL (1980). *The WEL Papers. 1980: A New Era for Women*. Melbourne: WEL-Victoria.

### **3. WEL newsletters.**

WEL-National (later called WEL-Australia), State and regional WEL groups all published newsletters. Copies are in the National and State libraries. Newsletters were included in the WEL-Australia documents that the WEL history project team placed in the National Library of Australia in June 2010: for details see Gail Radford's paper *Archiving WEL's history* which is on this website.

In 2014 WEL-NSW was the only group still producing its own newsletter. *WEL-Informed The Newsletter of Women's Electoral Lobby NSW* has been published every year since the start of the group in 1972. The April 2014 newsletter, Issue No 418, states that it is an 'occasional' publication and 'may be received in hard copy or by email'.

For historians it is sad to see the demise of so many newsletters, which have been such a rich source of information about WEL's activities over the years. However, in this electronic age they have been largely replaced by websites, email, Facebook and Twitter.

Up-to-date information about WEL's activities are on the WEL-Australia website at [www.wel.org.au](http://www.wel.org.au). WEL-NSW and WEL-Victoria also have websites but they have not been updated recently.

There is a regular WEL e-Update on WEL's activities and other 'feminist news'. This is a free service that is sent by email to WEL members and anyone else who is interested in receiving it. It is written by WEL-NSW for WEL-Australia. You can subscribe to the e-Update by putting your details on the WEL website at <http://wel.org.au/#sign-up>

The e-Update encourages the reader to become a friend of the Women's Electoral Lobby, Australia on Facebook and follow the Women's Electoral Lobby on Twitter (WELA @welaust)

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