Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1717

Petersen, Mairi Isabel Wilson

(1940 -)

Born	19400106, Maclean New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Activist, Teacher

Summary

Mairi Petersen is widely known and respected in the labor movement, particularly in Illawarra. She stood as an ALP candidate in the following elections:
New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Bligh in 1976.
House of Representatives for Wentworth in 1975.
City of Shellharbour Council in 1995.

Details

Mairi Petersen was born in Maclean on the north coast of New South Wales and completed her Primary Teacher's Certificate at Newcastle Teachers' College. Her first appointment was to Kellyville Primary School in the north west of Sydney. Subsequently she taught at Forest Lodge, Darlinghurst, Fort Street, Clovelly and Glenmore road, Paddington in the inner suburbs. Later she moved to the Illawarra area and taught at Mount Warrigal, Albion Park Rail and Shellharbour primary schools. Mairi Petersen married (1) Robert Gould (marriage dissolved) with whom she had a daughter, Natalie, and (2) George Petersen, MLA for Illawarra 1968-1988 (died 28 March 2000).

Together the Petersen's ran an environmental radio programme on the community radio station 2 VOX-FM for eight years. Mairi Petersen has travelled widely, particularly to third world countries, and was a member of the Cuba Work Brigade. She has been an active member of Amnesty International for many years and has taken part in many other community activities. She and George Petersen were long time members of the Illawarra Folk Club and Mairi has sung with the Trade Union Choir.

She is active in the Illawarra section of the Australian Society for the Study of Labor History, and has been a member of the Council for Civil Liberties for many years.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html

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