Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1893

Machin, Wendy

(1958 -)

Born	19581014
Occupation	Parliamentarian, Public relations professional

Summary

Wendy Machin was the first woman National Party member of the Legislative assembly of New South Wales and is an outstanding figure in many fields. She has successfully contested the following elections:
New South Wales Legislative Assembly Gloucester, 1985
New South Wales Legislative Assembly, Manning, 1988
New South Wales Legislative Assembly, Port Macquarie, 1991, 1995 (resigned August 1996).

During her long period in politics Wendy was Chairman of Committees from 1989-93, Minister for Consumer Affairs, Minister assisting the Minister for Roads and Minister assisting the Minister for Transport 1993-95. Prior to entering state politics, she was Alderman of the North Sydney Municipal Council from 1983-85.

Details

Wendy Machin was educated at Wingham High School and the NSW Institute of Technology (BA). After graduation, she worked as a Young National Party field organiser for a year and was Communications officer for the National Party of Australia 1981-2. She was elected to North Sydney Municipal Council in 1983, and in 1985 to the NSW Legislative Assembly for Gloucester, becoming the first woman to be elected for the National Party to the Legislative Assembly. Subsequently, she won the seats of Manning and Port Macquarie, and was MLA for Port Macquarie until her resignation in 1996, after the birth of her second child.

Wendy Machin was Chairman of Committees 1989-1993, Minister for Consumer Affairs, and Minister assisting the Minister for Roads from1993-5. She was Shadow Minister for Consumer Affairs, Roads and Fisheries 1995-1996. She was vice chairman of the Australian Republican Movement in 1998-2000 and was one of its delegates to the Constitutional Convention in 1998. She was President of the Save the Children Fund 1996-2000. In 2005 she was appointed by the Insurance Council of Australia to review their general insurance privacy code. Also, in 2005, she was appointed to the Board of the NRMA. She is a member of the Migration Review Tribunal.

She married David P. Bell on 20 July 1991, and they have one son, and one daughter. She owns and runs a beef cattle property near Wingham and runs her own consultancy business, Machin Consulting.

Published resources

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia 1998, Neto, Maryanne (researcher), 1997

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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