Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0016

Read, Robyn

Occupation Journalist, Parliamentarian, Political candidate, Politician, Public servant, Tutor, Writer

Summary

Robyn Read was an independent member of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly in the seat of North Shore from 1988 until 1991. She failed to gain re-election in the 1991 by-election. Prior to her parliamentary career, Robyn was a successful local councillor and was Alderman for the North Sydney Municipal Council from 1970-77 and 1987-91 and was also Deputy Mayor from 1974-75.

Details

Parliamentary and Local Government Career

Local Government

Alderman, North Sydney Municipal Council, 1970-77, 1987-91
Deputy Mayor 1974-75

State Government

Independent Member, North Shore, 1988-1991
Party: Independent

A lifelong resident of Sydney’s lower north shore, Read completed her BA and MA in Town and Country Planning at the University of Sydney.

From 1971 to 1977 and 1987 to 1991 she was Alderman of North Sydney Council, including periods as Deputy Mayor and Acting Mayor. During this time the Council introduced innovative programs such as public participation in precincts and the first New South Wales neighbourhood centre at Kirribilli. North Sydney became an acknowledged leader in the local government industry because of programs such as these.

The mother of three children – James Hamilton, Sophie Read-Hamilton and Cassandra Read-Hamilton – Read has also held positions with the Byron Shire Council, the New South Wales Water Resources Commission, the New South Wales Department of Environment and Planning and the Universities of Sydney and Macquarie.

Events

1988 - 1991
North Shore

1988 - 1991
NSW Legislative Assembly

Published resources

Book
The more things change, Read, Robyn, 1995

Report
Report on prisons following visits to Bathurst, Goulburn and Parklea gaols, Read, Robyn... [et al.], 1990

Burnside : Just twenty six suburbs, Read, Robyn, 1977

Burnside needs study, research & data document : Part 2., Read, Robyn, 1977?

Newspaper Article
Writer Read Takes a Leaf Out of Her Own Book, McNicoll, D D, 1995

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

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

ACT Heritage Library
HMSS 0039 Robyn Read Papers

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Robyn Read, author, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

State Library of New South Wales
Robyn Read further papers, 1972-1998

Robyn Read - further papers, 1974-1991

Robyn Read - papers concerning the Water Resources Commission of NSW, 1983-87

Stanton Library
Oral history interview with Robyn Read [sound recording] / by Margaret Park

Author Details
Elle Morrell

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