

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0106

Union of Australian Women

(1950 -)

Born 19500731, Australia

Occupation Social action organisation

Summary

Established in 1950, the Union of Australian Women is a left-wing social change organisation. Its aim is to work for the status and wellbeing of women across the world

Details

The Union of Australian Women (UAW) was established at a conference in Sydney in August 1950. The New South Wales branch was the first to be formed, with other state branches forming in quick succession. The state branches came together in 1956 to establish a national organisation.

Foundation members included communists, Labor Party supporters, Christian activists, and members of the New Housewives' Association. Early goals included improving the status of women and children, disarmament and a halt to nuclear testing and mining, equal distribution of wealth, increased welfare services, equal pay for women, equality for Indigenous Australians, abortion law reform, and opposition to the White Australia Policy. Current campaigns concern child care, woman and family friendly workplaces, health and housing, outworkers, reconciliation and Indigenous rights.

Published resources

Book

Left-wing Ladies : The Union of Australian women in Victoria 1950-1998, Fabian, Suzane and Loh, Morag, 2000

More Than a Hat and Glove Brigade: The Story of the Union of Australian Women, Curthoys, B. (Barbara) and McDonald, Audrey, 1996

Uphill all the way: a documentary history of women in Australia, Daniels, Kay and Murnane, Mary, 1980

Women and wages in the war years 1940-1945 : Sheetmetal Workers' Union, 1982

Daring to take a stand : the story of the Union of Australian Women in Queensland, Young, Pam, 1998

Videorecording

Apron strings and atom bombs, Shona Stephen and Judith Womersley, 1996

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Worth Fighting For!, Fryer Library with research by Yorick Smaal, 2005,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20050708180233/http://www.library.uq.edu.au/fryer/worth_fighting/

Newsletter

UAW News, 1954-1999

The Journal of the Union of Australian Women, 1949-1953

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

Papers re: Panhellenic Women's Movement

International Women's Day Committee Research Project : Summary Record [sound recording] Interviewers: Celia Frank and Kirstin Marks

Union of Australian Women : SUMMARY RECORD

Betty Fisher : SUMMARY RECORD

Victoria University of Technology

Archives of the Union of Australian Women

Noel Butlin Archives Centre, Australian National University

Union of Australian Women New South Wales branch deposit 1

Tom and Mary Wright collection deposit 1

Tom and Mary Wright Collection deposit 2

Union of Australian Women Federal Office deposit

Union of Australian Women New South Wales branch deposit 2

The University of Melbourne Archives

Oke, Marjorie (1911-2003)

The University of Newcastle Archives, Rare Books and Special Collections Unit: Communist Party of Australia Archival Material

Barbara Curthoys Collection

Fryer Library and Department of Special Collections

Union of Australian Women Records

Fryer Library, The University of Queensland

Ted and Eva Bacon Papers

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

Mary Wright interviewed by Richard Raxworthy in the Labor Council of New South Wales oral history project [sound recording]

National Library of Australia

U.A.W. news / Union of Australian Women

State Library of Victoria

Collection of papers relating to the employment of women in Australia, ca. 1942-1982. [manuscript].

State Library of New South Wales

Barbara Curthoys - interviews with members of the Union of Australian Women, 1995

Mary Wright papers, 1937-1990

Author Details

Clare Land and Nikki Henningham

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