

Archive No. 108

Union of Australian Women (UAW)

The UAW in Victoria was set up on 31 July 1950, to act as a political women's group for change and social justice. The aims of the UAW included promoting rights for women by fighting for equal pay, economic justice and for world peace amongst other related issues. The UAW has been active on both a national and state level here in Victoria ever since.

There were several branches including the Darebin and Southern Groups which organised their own meetings and group activities as well as supporting the central UAW group. The UAW produced a monthly newsletter to keep its members informed and up-to-date, organised regular information meetings with guest speakers and were involved in many campaigns and events over the years including: publicising the dangers of depro provera, in support of Aboriginal rights and Reconciliation, the decriminalisation of abortion and the NGO Women's Forum in Beijing in 1995

In 1988, the UAW published Taking Time: a Women's Historical Data Kit, compiled and edited by Yvonne Smith with cartoons by Mary Leunig which featured timelines on several women's issues including those to do with Koori resistance, the vote, equal pay legislation and Women's Liberation Movement actions and events.

A video, Apron Strings and Atom Bombs, documenting almost five decades of political action from 1950 to the 1990s with interviews with some of the long-serving members, was launched on 14 March 1996.

The UAW celebrated its 50th anniversary at the launch of Left Wing Ladies, a history of the Victorian UAW, by Morag Loh and Suzane Fabian, at the YWCA in Elizabeth Street with speakers Carman Laurence and Jocelyne Scutt, on 18 March 2000. And was still politically active well into the new millennium.