

Women's Manifesto for the Republic

The Republic, joining all of us together in a great and prolonged wave of nation-building to engage all the people, will:

- inspire us for the future of our country and complete unfinished business; it will be a stepping stone towards a renewed, equal and inclusive nation.
- assert the sovereign authority of the Commonwealth of Australia by the will of all the people.
- lessen our cynicism by revitalising the involvement of everyone in public life and politics.
- position us well for the changed international environment by creating a post-colonial identity and allowing that to develop over time (revitalising the process of establishing our own *national identity* largely untouched since 1950).
- defend and protect her people, wherever they are, with accountability under the rule of law.
- express our profound love and respect for the land.
- reaffirm our commitment to freedom, equality, cooperation and a fair-go for all
- be accompanied by a new Constitution stating the equality of women and men before the law and recognising our Indigenous peoples.
- provide for our own head of state alternating between women and men as a true mark of equality and inclusion enshrined in the Constitution (so that it cannot be easily changed).

The new Commonwealth of Australia reconstituted as a Republic under the uniting symbol of the golden wattle, will create “the Great Republic of the Southern Seas”(1).

Women for an Australian Republic

www.womenrep.net.au

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(1) from the leading article in the first issue of the *Republican*, begun by Louisa and Henry Lawson in 1887; quoted in: Oldfield, Audrey (1999) *The Great Republic of the Southern Seas*, Alexandria NSW, Hale and Iremonger Pty Ltd.