

**FOR
THE
RIGHTS
OF
WOMEN.**



**THREE DECADES
OF STRUGGLE
1950 - 1980**



**30th Anniversary Union of
Australian Women. Price \$1-00**



Printed by EL FARO

483 Riley Street, Surry Hills, 2010 — Phone 698-9826

UNION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN
30TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

LIST OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
UAW Background	5
Formation of Women's International Democratic Federation	5
New Housewives Association	5
UAW is Formed	5
National Beginnings	6
UAW in 1980	7
Work with Trade Unions	7
Peace Actions	8
International Solidarity	9
Living Standards	10
Women's Rights	11
Trade Union Women's Committees	12
Aborigines	13
Migrants	13
Additional Activities	14
UN Decade for Women—International Women's Year ..	15
International Year of the Child	16
International Women's Day	17
"Our Women"	18
Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) ..	20
WIDF Presidents	20
The Future	20
Thoughts on the UAW — A Poem	21
Appendix	22

INTRODUCTION

This booklet has been produced for the 30th Anniversary of our organisation. It is a reminder to long standing members and friends of our beginnings, our aims and our work over 30 years of constant and consistent action. We hope it will also serve as a background of information for newer members, friends and women interested to learn more about the Union of Australian Women and its place in the women's movement of this country.

The UAW was established in 1950 to advance the status of women as citizens, workers and mothers, to improve the life of women and their families and the well-being of children in a world free from war.

A non-Party political organisation, open to all women who agree with its aims and programme, the UAW takes up issues of concern to women in an active militant way ranging from discussions, letter writing through to demonstrations.

While it is a women's organisation fighting for women's rights, the UAW works with all types of organisations and seeks the support of men and women in the community believing that women's status will only be changed through changing attitudes and eventually ending exploitation of both women and men. Based on working class women, whether working at home or in industry, it has close ties with the trade union movement, and works closely with other women's organisations and community groups.

Expressing concern that the future of all people —women, men and children— cannot progress without the guarantee of world peace, the UAW works consistently for peace and the developing of international friendship and understanding and extends solidarity with people of other countries, particularly women.

Affiliation to the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF), a most powerful world women's organisation with 129 organisations in 114 countries covering the three world economic systems and having Status at the United Nations (UN), gives the UAW close links with sister organisations throughout the world.

We pay tribute to all those women who over the years devoted themselves to the fulfillment of our aims. All our members have played their part at whatever level of organisation they have chosen, either the local community group, the State Branch or the National Committee —and all have contributed to building and maintaining the UAW throughout the years.

We take this opportunity to express our appreciation to those organisations which have given tremendous support over 30 years —in particular the many trade unions which have extended financial and moral support to the numerous campaigns of the organisation.

This is a reflection of the unique character of the Union of Australian Women, and proof that our militant policy and action-orientated programme is in keeping with the continuing struggle of the Australian people for a better way of life.

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

THE UNION OF AUSTRALIAN WOMEN

THE BACKGROUND

The Union of Australian Women came into being in 1950 in the post-war world of inflation, scarcity, baby boom and Cold War—a legacy of the Second World War, which ended in 1945, virtually with the atomic destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

War had brought many changes to the lives of Australian women. Thousands had joined the armed forces and taken on men's jobs in industry and commerce. Through their unions, many women fought for, and won, 90% of the male rate of pay, but those who were still working at jobs not classified as "male" received only 60% of the male rate.

With the end of the war came hope of a new era—no more war, a time of peace, plenty and happiness for all. It was not long before disillusionment set in. Australians were faced with skyrocketing prices, scarcity of essential goods and resultant blackmarketeering, power cuts, teacher shortages and overcrowded schools, desperate shortage of houses and hospital beds. To cap it all, those women who had taken over men's jobs either lost them or had their wages reduced to 75% of the male rate.

International tensions, instead of relaxing, were actually intensifying and the full horror of the atomic bomb was being realised. The U.S.A. sends troops into Korea, the "Cold War" began to flourish and many people feared another world war.



FORMATION OF THE W.I.D.F.

In 1945, a Conference was held in Paris attended by 850 women from 41 different countries. They formed the Women's International Democratic Federation (W.I.D.F.), with the aim of uniting women, regardless of race, nationality, religion and political opinion, so that they might work together to win and defend their rights as mothers, citizens and workers and to ensure the rights of children to education, health and happiness in a peaceful world.

NEW HOUSEWIVES ASSOCIATION

When the conference delegates returned to their homes around the world they helped to initiate women's organisations which affiliated with W.I.D.F.

In Australia in 1946, a group of Sydney women set up the New Housewives Association to try and combat the ever increasing prices, attacks on women's wages and other problems affecting women. Its main campaign was to stabilise prices by the re-introduction of price control. In other States similar housewives' groups grew up and eventually joined forces with the New Housewives' Association of N.S.W.

The New Housewives' Association affiliated with the W.I.D.F. and so was kept in touch with the situation in Europe, which was also not improving as had been hoped. The women of Europe had suffered terribly in the war, in a way unknown to us. Their children had suffered and were still suffering the effects of war. Peace was becoming the dominating theme in the work of European women's organisations, yet they were also concerned with women's rights, equality of status, education and welfare of children and higher living standards.

THE U.A.W. IS FORMED

The members of the New Housewives' Association realised that there was a need to broaden their work and include wider issues than those traditionally regarded as "housewifely", so it was decided to form a new organisation which would embrace all women.

On August 25th, 1950, the inaugural meeting of the Union of Australian Women was held in Radio Theatre, George Street, Sydney. The main topics discussed were peace and human rights, peace in relation to women and children, wages and women in industry, prices, child welfare and health. The main resolutions adopted were on world peace, prices and human rights, all topics which still concern us today. The new organisation immediately affiliated with the W.I.D.F. and adopted similar aims, briefly:

- * To win and defend women's rights;
- * To defend the rights of all children to life, happiness and education;
- * To safeguard peace.

This then was our beginning. Soon the UAW was established in other States.



For

A WORLD AT PEACE



Dr. ANDREA ANDREEN, of Sweden
Guest of Honour

SOUVENIR
PROGRAMME

FIRST NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

Union of Australian
Women

Sydney, 7th. - 11th. November,
1956

For

A HAPPY FAMILY LIFE



NATIONAL BEGINNINGS

In 1956 the first National Conference was held, electing a National Committee and adopting a National Programme and Constitution which allowed us to speak with one voice on matters of national importance.

It has always been a structured organisation with a constitution, elected office bearers and reasonably formal meetings. As a result our members have been able to take part effectively in community affairs at all levels of decision making, whether local government, trade union, parents committees or the local UAW branch.

UAW IN 1980

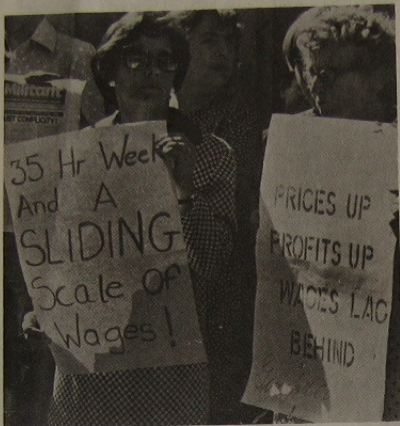
Today, a national organisation with branches in most states, the UAW has a National Committee and National Executive, publishes a regular national circular (internal) and from time to time an international circular to sister organisations throughout the world. Greeting cards, protest cards and leaflets are published on given occasions and issues. A list of 14 separate publications printed in the last decade appears in the Appendix.

Affiliations to other organisations include:

- Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS)
- Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations (AFCO)
- Australian Peace Committee (APC)
- Australia-Vietnam Society (AVS)
- United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA)
- UNAA National Status of Women Committee
- United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)
- Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF)

Permanent National Funds exist for:—

- Tranby Aborigine Co-operative Ltd (scholarship for an Aboriginal girl)
- Mother and Child Hospital, Hanoi, Vietnam.



VICTORIAN UAW DEMONSTRATE OUTSIDE ARBITRATION COURT

WORK WITH TRADE UNIONS

The UAW has always aimed to work closely with the trade unions and at various levels, both organisation to organisation and through individual UAW members being members of trade unions.

We feel we have contributed over the years to the campaigns of the trade union movement and the support of the trade unions has been invaluable to UAW projects. Our relationship ranges over a wide area and covers all of the main aspects of our work — for peace, international solidarity, women's rights and working conditions, living standards and the many other general activities referred to herein. The most recent work together around the International Year of the Child (IYC) was very useful as was the work for International Women's Year (IWY) and now the United Nations Decade for Women. Projects such as seminars, conferences, solidarity fund raising, support for leaflets, publications, badges, T shirts, posters, greeting cards and protest cards are just a few of the many activities supported or jointly initiated.



JOINT TRADE UNION & UAW DEMONSTRATION

PEACE ACTIONS

Throughout the years our anti war activities have never flagged. We recognised that the development of the atomic bomb now meant that all of humanity, not just military personnel would be involved in any future conflicts, and we, therefore, were part of those forces in the world which sought the banning of the bomb, an end to testing, for countries to negotiate their differences around the conference table and for world disarmament.

In the cold war period of the 50's, when "peace" was a dirty word, our women trudged miles collecting signatures to petitions. They took to the streets, sometimes in just threes and fours, protesting against continuing US tests and at all times stating the need for world disarmament. We called for an end to the Korean war, and we were amongst the first organisations to express our opposition to U.S.A. involvement in Vietnam and Australia's participation there.



We opposed conscription for Vietnam, helped conscientious objectors and assisted in the formation of the Save Our Sons movement (SOS). We took decisions to oppose the Vietnam war, fully aware that the leadership of the UAW could have been gaoled under the Crimes Act.

We have opposed continued testing of nuclear weapons by France in the Pacific region, pointing out that nuclear weapons are the greatest pollutants to mankind, and how fall-out contaminated the food chain, particularly milk. Our women held house meetings, organised and spoke at public meetings, carried placards in street demonstrations. These members played a great part in changing peace from a dirty word to an accepted ideal.



In 1957 when five Western Australian UAW members were charged with "parading with placards" while wearing aprons and scarves in opposition to nuclear tests it was the beginning of a struggle which brought support from the trade unions, women in the Labor Party and church organisations and other democratic organisations. Each was fined one pound with eight shillings costs in the Perth Court but they won the right to wear slogans when their Appeal was upheld in the Supreme Court. Our photo shows four of the five women.

We have always been concerned with children that they should be taught the meaning of peace and should grow up with a belief in the friendship of all the people of the world. We have continually made efforts to get various types of war propaganda banned, such as those found in comic strips and other material designed for the entertainment of children.

In 1967 we launched a campaign against war toys. This has been continued and in 1979, as part of IYC, we played a part in influencing governments, toy manufacturers and the public against their production.



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY:

Our affiliation with W.I.D.F. has enhanced our understanding and appreciation of the needs and achievements of women in other lands with differing social systems.

Over the years we have invited many guests to visit us and exchange ideas. They have come from such countries as Sweden, France, Portugal, Somalia, India, Indonesia, Great Britain, Japan, New Zealand, Soviet Union, Poland, Bulgaria and China.

We have sent delegates to many international conferences and in this way have learned at first hand of the problems and achievements of women all over the world.

To further our aims of friendship with peoples of other countries, we have taken solidarity action, particularly with women in the developing countries and those living under repressive conditions in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Often this action, to which our members have warmly responded has been undertaken in co-operation with trade unions, women's organisations, churches and solidarity groups.



Welcoming a cultural group from the U.S.S.R.



Solidarity with Chilean Trade Union Representative



1975 U.A.W. (S.A.) in first May Day march in Adelaide for thirty years

We have made special efforts to meet and build ties with women from socialist countries as we realise that it is necessary to understand each other's point of view, be willing to learn about each other's country and particularly to become knowledgeable about the position of women in each other's country.

Links have been established with women and sister organisations in capitalist countries which have similar conditions, problems and campaigns to our own. We have become conversant with their struggles to improve the status of women.

In the last decade we have contributed towards a number of solidarity funds, notably the Mother and Child Hospital in Hanoi, opened November 1979 by Freda Brown, as President of the W.I.D.F., the W.I.D.F. Training Centre for Women of Latin America, appeals for funds for women and children victims of violence or natural disaster in Zimbabwe, Chile, Soweto, East Timor, Bangladesh, India and Vietnam and the appeal against the prosecution and imprisonment of Angela Davis the militant black activist of the USA.

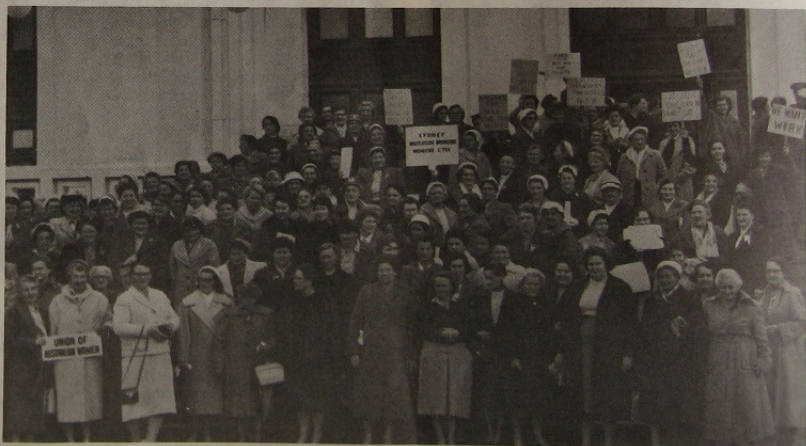
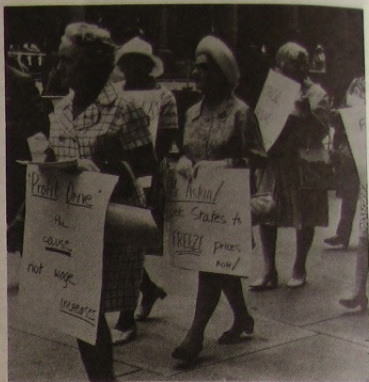
LIVING STANDARDS:

Defence of living standards has been an important plank of our platform. We have ceaselessly campaigned for profit and price control.

Our members have handed out leaflets in shopping centres, organised protest marches against price rises, held placards and collected signatures to petitions outside supermarkets, fronted management with deputations, carried out door-to-door household budget surveys, initiated boycotts of highly priced goods as well as lobbied governments and presented submissions at Government inquiries on the price of such commodities as meat, bread, milk, gas, electricity, frozen foods, etc.

We have campaigned for improved standards of consumer goods and labelling, and opposed costly excess packaging.

In the latter years we have been invited to participate in government meetings and committees on consumerism, transport, marketing, pricing and social welfare. As mentioned the UAW is affiliated to the Australian Federation of Consumer Organisations (AFCO) and the Australian Council of Social Services (ACOSS).



INCREASED CHILD ENDOWMENT AND MATERNITY ALLOWANCES:

Our first national campaign adopted following the National Conference 1956, called for increases in child endowment and maternity allowance payments. Thirty thousand signatures were

collected to a petition and support came from over 40 trade unions and other organisations. When the petitions were presented to the Federal Government in 1958 some 250 women took part in the biggest delegation ever to go to Parliament up to that time.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS:

Many changes have occurred in the lives of women in the past 30 years not the least being the increasing percentage of women, particularly married women, now in the workforce. It was because of our concern for the needs of women entering the workforce that in 1974 a National Seminar was organised in association with the Trade Union Education and Research Centre (TUE&RC) and supported by 24 unions which drew up "AN AUSTRALIAN CHARTER OF WOMEN WORKERS' RIGHTS". This was subsequently printed in International Women's Year (IWY) on a Federal Government grant as the "HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN UNIONISTS", and was used to influence unions and delegates to the 1975 and 1977 Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Congresses in supporting a Trade Union Charter for Women.

We have consistently campaigned for a host of women's issues as contained in our Charter such as:

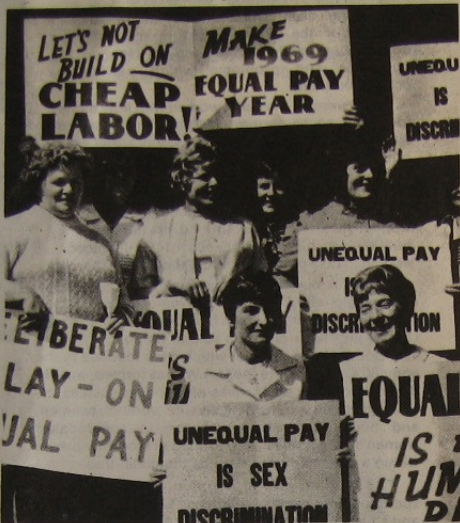
- RIGHT TO WORK
- EQUAL PAY
- EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION AND TRAINING
- CHILD CARE IN ITS VARIOUS FORMS
- PAID MATERNITY LEAVE
- MORE FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS, FREE CONTRACEPTIVES
- THE RIGHT TO TREAT ABORTION AS ANY OTHER MEDICAL PROCEDURE
- ASSISTANCE TO WORKING PARENTS
- TRADE UNION PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN.

CHILD CARE:

Since its foundation the U.A.W. has consistently worked for child care in its various forms and in years when it was not popular to do so. Thousands upon thousands of signatures were collected to various petitions in the 50's and 60's. Local, State and Federal Governments were lobbied, tax deductibility sought for child care fees, employers called upon to take responsibility for financing child care through a levy and unions urged to support inclusion of child care facilities in Award claims.

The U.A.W. supports the provision of child care in the following areas,

- 24 hours a day care if necessary.
- Working hours of parents.
- After school care.
- Emergency Care.
- Casual care.



Meat workers demonstrate Arbitration Court 1969 Equal Pay Case.

EQUAL PAY:

As well as taking part on the various State Equal Pay Committees of the late 50's and actions during the Annual A.C.T.U. Equal Pay Week our members spoke to women on the jobs, produced leaflets, adopted resolutions, demonstrated in the streets and submissions were made to the Arbitration Commission on Equal Pay and Equal Minimum Wage cases.



Before School Starts

PROGRESS IN CHILD CARE

TRADE UNION WOMEN'S COMMITTEES

Working class women, whether working in industry or the home, found in the UAW an organisation ready and willing to take up the questions and problems which particularly concerned them.

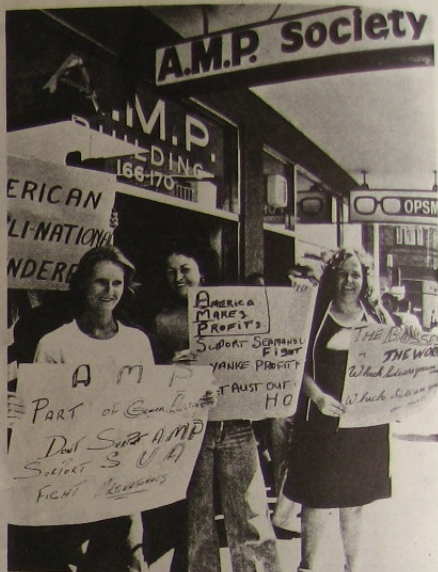
They were, in the main, women with little money to spare, so to support their organisation they worked hard raising money by way of street stalls, raffles, luncheons and functions of all kinds. They conducted handicraft classes and cooking demonstrations and used every occasion to bring their point of view before the general public or the women in their neighbourhood. In this way they built the organisation, financed it and influenced women to take part in more "political" activities.

The U.A.W. has always maintained a close relationship with Trade Union Women's Committees which in fact over the years have been affiliated to the U.A.W. and have played a role in its policy making. The Committees, some of which were founded in the early 30's, long before the U.A.W. was formed, were in the main composed of wives of unionists such as the railway workers, miners, waterside workers, seamen, and building workers. However, in some cases women's committees were formed of women workers within a given industry such as the metal trades.

The former were originally formed as a spontaneous response to intense industrial struggles and strikes of their menfolk for economic, and political rights. In due course they developed into committees which brought about greater understanding among women and the whole family of the men's working conditions, the nature of their work, their trade union's aims, policies and actions. This in some instances meant the involvement of the committee in preparation of award cases. In turn all this led to an interest and involvement in the wider trade union and working class movement which included the Union of Australian Women. Most of the committees became affiliated to the U.A.W., which had been influential in the development of some them.



May Day 1979 — Brisbane



Seamen's Union Women's Committee (Port Kembla) Protest AMP Support for Utah.



ABORIGINES

We have always supported the Aboriginal people in their struggle for land rights and self determination and our State Branches have been particularly involved in this work and have devoted a great deal of

time and effort to the problems of our indigenous people.

Our organisation for a number of years has contributed to the support of a female student at Tranby Aboriginal Co-operative in Sydney, N.S.W.



Sydney Branch Waterside Workers Federation solidarity to send an Aboriginal delegate to IWY Congress (Berlin, G.D.R.) 1975.

MIGRANT WOMEN

The UAW has aimed to make contact with new arrivals in our country and to assist in their assimilation into the community. Contacts have been developed with women from the UK, Chile, Uruguay, Greece, Italy, Turkey, Yugoslavia and various Arabic speaking countries. Our work is twofold — on the one hand to become cognisant of the problems of migrant women and to assist them with regard to language, job opportunities, conditions etc. and by taking up the various issues contained in the Charter for Women Workers' Rights, on the other hand, by extending solidarity to women in their homelands — for example, protesting at the closure of the Progressive Women's Organisation's office in Turkey, protesting about the atrocities against women in Chile and Uruguay. Migrant women's organisations have begun to make more formal contacts with the UAW and Greek women have already become affiliated.



Greek Women's Organisation contingent in I.W.D. march, Sydney, 1980

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

As part of our work in relation to matters of concern to women we have made submissions to many public enquiries including the Royal Commission on Human Relations, the Family Law Council, the Joint Select Committee on the Family Law Act, the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal re renewal of Commercial Television Licenses and also its enquiry into Self-Regulation by Broadcasters, the Enquiry into the Australian Broadcasting System and the Enquiry on the Impact of Television on Children.

In recent times we have been concerned with the growing violence in the community against women and children and our concern has led to the formulation of policies regarding rape, prostitution and pornography. The knowledge gained as a result of studying these problems acts as a guide to our later activities relating to them.

Over the years, wherever our members saw a need they took action — a local bus shelter, traffic lights at school crossings, child care fees to be tax deductible, harmful chemical sprays to be banned, lead content in petrol to be lowered, flammable materials, particularly for children's nightware, to be prohibited, the list is endless.

The methods by which we put our point of view to the public are commonplace today, but in Australia thirty years ago, modern style "demos" were rare indeed, as was door-to-door canvassing with petitions and surveys. While our members, usually met with good responses, they were often treated with hostility and abuse, but they persisted regardless.



U.A.W. (Q'land) demonstrate in support of Medibank



U.N. DECADE FOR WOMEN "EQUALITY — DEVELOPMENT — PEACE" 1976—1985

The U.N. Decade for Women, which began with International Women's Year 1975 and has as its theme "Equality Development and Peace" has our total support.

International Women's Year 1975 brought about many changes in people's thinking and attitudes towards women which formed the basis for work and co-operation on women's issues during the first half of the Decade.

Women played a decisive part in setting and achieving higher goals.

The Whitlam Labor Government through its creative approach set the scene for many of the achievements for women seen in Australia today — but much more still has to be done.

The U.A.W. began its work towards I.W.Y. as early as 1972 by pressing for Government support and recognition both at the U.N. and in Australia.

Discussions were held with the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and co-operation sought and responded to by the Whitlam Government for our President's attendance at the UN Status of Women Commission in New York as the representative of the WIDF to discuss plans for IWY.

Subsequently in the plans and preparations for IWY the UAW played a significant role in Australian action; it worked with such organisations as the UNAA Status of Women Committees (state and national), the 1975 Committee (a co-ordination of community and women's groups), with the trade unions and, as a women's organisation raising its own specific demands and undertaking special projects — seminars, conferences, discussions etc.

No less than eight (8) publications (see Appendix) were printed by the organisation in connection with IWY.

Members participated at local, national and international conferences, including the Mexico (UN) and Berlin (Peoples) IWY Conferences. A widely representative delegation of 15 women, led by the UAW, was organised for the IWY Berlin Conference.

As a follow-on to IWY much work was continued by the UAW as a lobby group and many demands were proposed and made individually or in co-operation with other organisations aimed at involving and encouraging women to achieve an equal place in our society.

Affiliation to W.I.D.F. was especially beneficial in this period for it ensured that the organisation was knowledgeable about world events and actions for women, in particular the work at the U.N. Further, due to our President's leading role in W.I.D.F., and therefore attendance at various UN meetings, we were in a very favourable position to receive details and information about U.N. world wide plans of actions for women in I.W.Y., the Decade, and more recently the International Year of the Child.



Symbol IWY Congress
Berlin, GDR October, 1975



Some of the Australian Delegates to the IWY World Congress (Berlin, G.D.R.), representing Victoria, South Australia, NSW (including Newcastle) with WIDF leaders. Freda Brown (Australia), Aruna Asaf Ali (India) and Hortensa Allende (Chile).

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE CHILD

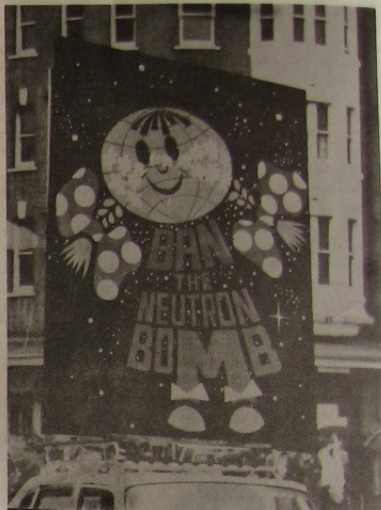
The International Year of the Child, coming as it did almost midway through the Decade offered opportunities for special efforts in relation to that other important aspect of our work, the welfare of children.

Our members responded as ever, becoming active in local community groups, organising seminars, discussions and exhibitions, working in every possible way to bring the needs of children clearly before the public and emphasising the basic rights of all children — the right to live, the need for world peace and an end to the arms race.

The first U.A.W. action for I.Y.C. was as far back as July 1976 when a meeting of various organisations was called resulting in a resolution calling on the Government (Fraser Government) to support a motion at the U.N. General Assembly to have 1979 declared International Year of the Child.

From then on many actions were initiated nationally and at state and local level as instanced above. In 1977 a special I.Y.C. publication "Today's Children, Tomorrow's Future" was printed. In March 1979 the National I.Y.C. Conference in Canberra was attended and a delegation initiated by the U.A.W. participated in the World I.Y.C. Conference, Moscow, September, 1979.

A separate document on "U.A.W. — Reports I.Y.C. Actions and Policy For Children" contains specific details of work for I.Y.C. and afterwards.



UAW — IYC (1979) Symbol



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

The U.A.W. has always supported and promoted the celebration and recognition of International Women's Day in Australia.

The movement for I.W.D. arose out of the militant actions of women garment and textile workers in New York, who, in 1908, marched through the streets protesting at their intolerable working conditions.

The first recorded Women's Day concerned with the struggle for social equality was held in the United States on February, 27th 1909 and a year later, 1910, at the Second International Women's Conference of Socialist Women in Copenhagen, attended by 100 women from 17 countries, March 8th was declared International Women's Day (I.W.D.) on a resolution moved by leading German Socialist, Clara Zetkin who became a senior member of the German Parliament and a leading opponent of Hitler fascism.

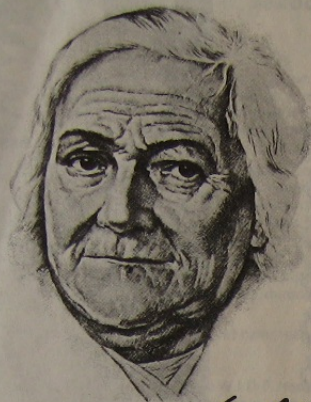
Since that time I.W.D. has been used as a means of furthering the cause of women to enjoy full social, economic and political equality in a world of peace.

Australian celebrations of I.W.D. go back to the 20's when the Militant Women's Action Movement formed an I.W.D. Committee. Soon I.W.D. celebrations developed throughout the country.

Many women's organisations took part in these activities, particularly in the early years. Since its inception the UAW has been in the forefront of those groups which were prepared to organise the celebration of this important day in the history of the women's movement. Annual marches, demonstrations and public meetings were initiated in most States and IWD greeting cards and leaflets were produced



1975 International Women Year IWD march



Clara Zetkin

annually. A National IWD Co-ordinating Committee was formed in the 60's. Its main work was in hosting visits by international guests.

In later years the IWD celebrations have become more widely supported, particularly since 1975 — International Women's Year. In recent years some State Governments have come to recognise the day and the National Conference for the United Nations Mid-Term Review, organised by the National Women's Advisory Council (NWAC) was held in Canberra on March 6—7 at the time of the 1980 IWD celebrations.



FIRST INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY march in Australia, in Melbourne, 1934. Banners call for equal pay, peace and proclaim "Long Live International Women's Day."



"OUR WOMEN"

"Our Women" was the name of the magazine which for 20 years was our 'calling card'. The first edition appeared in March 1953 on the eve of International Women's Day and through the succeeding years the magazine helped to record much of the history of the women's movement. During the 20 years of its existence "Our Women" appeared three times a year, with the exception of two years when it appeared only twice. A devoted group of volunteers wrote, researched, edited and illustrated the articles and stories, prepared the layout and read the proofs. Thousands of copies were sold throughout Australia, thanks to those members who sold it in the streets, at work and from door-to-door. The U.A.W. planned the magazine to attract the interest of women everywhere, on the factory floor, in the home, in the office, at the shop counter.

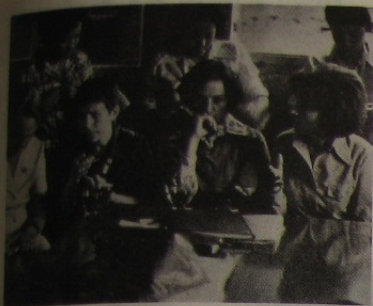
In 1972, after much discussion and in the face of growing costs the National Committee decided to cease publication of the magazine and concentrate its

efforts on publications which could deal with current issues.

The Appendix lists the publications since that time.



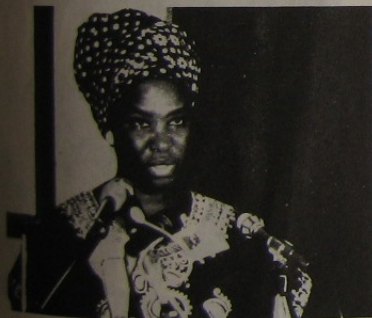
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION



The Tell Al-Zaatar centre in the Al-Damour-Camp run by the General Union of Palestinian Women, where refugees from Tell Al-Zaatar are now living. Here they are taught sewing and other handicrafts



W.I.D.F. Mother & Child Centre, Vietnam



Ruth Neto. Member of the Executive Committee of the Angolan Women's Organisation (OMA)

The Women's International Democratic Federation, founded in Paris in 1945 as a result of a Conference attended by 850 women from 41 countries is the international organisation to which the U.A.W. is affiliated.

The women attending the inaugural Conference had known the horrors of war and were determined to do their utmost to prevent the outbreak of further wars. They called on all women, regardless of race, nationality, creed and political views, to join in the struggle waged in defence of their rights as mothers, workers and citizens, as well as for the protection of their children, national independence, democracy and peace.

Women from all over the world have responded to this appeal.

Ever since its foundation the W.I.D.F. has sought to establish close bonds of friendship and solidarity between women the world over. Its popularity and influence keeps growing and spreading day by day. Currently it numbers 129 organisations in 114 countries speaking for millions of women in countries of all political persuasions — capitalist, socialist and developing.

The W.I.D.F. plays an important part in the international community.

As a non-government organisation (N.G.O.) in consultative Status 1 with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (E.C.O.S.O.C.) it is qualified to put before the Council the problems afflicting millions of women and to make proposals to improve their condition.

The W.I.D.F. also has consultative Status B with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (U.N.E.S.C.O.). It is on the Special List of the International Labour Organisation (I.L.O.) and the Food and Agricultural Organisation (F.A.O.) and others.

The W.I.D.F. endeavours to place before the U.N. Agencies not only the social problems of the people but also questions connected with the preservation of peace and with security, democracy and human rights. It was the W.I.D.F. through its President at the time, Herta Kuusinen of Finland, that first proposed that the U.N. should declare an International Women's Year and as we know that Year was proclaimed as 1975 and became the first year in the Decade for Women.

At its 7th Congress in 1975, the World Peace Council awarded the Frederic Joliot Curie Medal to the W.I.D.F. for its services to the cause of peace and understanding between peoples.

Women

of the whole world

In 1951 the W.I.D.F. began publication of its journal "Women of the Whole World" which is the only international women's journal. It circulates on all continents and is published quarterly in English, Arabic, French, German, Russian and Spanish.

Over the years "Women of the Whole World" has endeavoured to provide its readers with news and reports of concern to women from all parts of the world and in this way has made a great contribution to one of the basic aims and responsibilities of W.I.D.F. which is to build bonds of friendship, understanding and solidarity amongst the peoples of the world.

W.I.D.F. PRESIDENTS

In its 35 years of existence the W.I.D.F. has had only three Presidents.

The first, Eugenie Cotton, President of the Union of French Women, was elected at the inaugural Conference in Paris in 1945 and held the position until her death in 1967 at the age of 86. For her stand in defence of the people of Vietnam, she was threatened with imprisonment.

The second President, elected at the W.I.D.F.'s 6th Conference held in Helsinki in 1969, was Herta Kuusinen of Finland. A member of Parliament in her own country. On behalf of the W.I.D.F. she proposed to the United Nations that International Women's Year be held in 1975. Herta Kuusinen died on 18th March, 1974, shortly after her seventieth birthday.

The 7th W.I.D.F. Congress in 1975 elected as its third President, Freda Brown of Australia. Freda had for some years been a Vice President of the W.I.D.F. and was President of the International Preparatory Committee for the World Congress for International Women's Year 1975 held in Berlin, German Democratic Republic. She was also at that time National President of the U.A.W. Freda was elected President of the International Preparatory Committee for I.Y.C. and was President of the World Conference for International Children's Year, Moscow, September, 1979.

In recognition of the work of W.I.D.F. for peace, Freda as the President of W.I.D.F. recently was awarded the International Lenin Prize "for the promotion of peace among nations."

We are proud that from our ranks has come one of the outstanding leaders of the women's movement in the world today.

THE FUTURE

We look forward to the future, working in close cooperation internationally with WIDF and with other progressive organisations in Australia around common aims which will help to build a better, more peaceful world for people everywhere.



THOUGHTS OF THE U.A.W.

*Thirty years of history are racing through my mind
As words to tell the story, I'm reaching out to find
As one who 'joined up' early I've had my chance to see
The dedicated women who worked so we could be
A Union of Women — which spread Australia wide,
With international friendship — all countries side by side.*

*In 30 years' endeavour we've covered many spheres —
Equality and prices, war toys and other fears,
Vietnam and conscription, big issues to be fought
With deputations to M.P.'s and social justice sought.*

*Election time's a challenge we take well in our stride
Distributing our leaflets to show the workers' side
And what is best for women — her family's welfare too
We've good support from unions
They know what we can do!*

*At state and local levels you'll find us working hard
to raise the quality of life and women's status guard.
Our record must be written — too big a job for me,
But 30 years' achievement is there for all to see.*

*Let's now look to the future, there's much still to be done.
So many problems face us, the battle's just begun,
With this Decade of Women — a challenge to us all
Equality, Development and Peace the clarion call!*

Debbie Knopman

U.A.W. PUBLICATIONS PRODUCED SINCE 1970

1970

Our Women, Nos. 45,46,47

1971

Our Women, Nos. 48,49

1972

"WOMEN'S EQUALITY": Issue No. 1.

"WOMEN IN AUSTRALIA",

- * Background to Today.
- * Women in the Workforce.
- * Employment and Education Opportunities.
- * Women in the Community.

1972

"WOMEN'S EQUALITY": Issue No. 2.

"BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS":

- * Documentation on Child Care Needs.

1973. (Sept)

"TOWARDS 1975". U.A.W. Information Bulletin.

- * Women and the Law.
- * Women and Education.
- * Vietnam, South Africa, Portuguese

Colonialism.

- * What is W.I.D.F.
- * U.A.W. and Prices.

1974

"TOWARDS 1975" U.A.W. Information Bulletin.

* International Women's Year for the Rights of Women.

1974

UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Commission on the Status of Women, 25th Session, New York, Jan-Feb., 1974.

DECLARATIONS (UN General Assembly), CONVENTIONS (UN ECOSOC), RESOLUTIONS (UNESCO-ILO), RECOMMENDATIONS ON WOMEN.

Resume on the UN Studies Concerning the Declaration on the ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN and the Corresponding Conventions.

1975

AN AUSTRALIAN CHARTER OF WOMEN WORKERS RIGHTS.

(International Women's Year Publication).

1975

"HANDBOOK FOR WOMEN UNIONISTS"

A special International Women's Year Publication on a Federal Government grant.

1976

DOCUMENTS OF TWO MAJOR WORLD CONFERENCES-INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR.

- * Mexico, June 1975.
- * Berlin, October 1975.

1977

DRAFT CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN as adopted at the 26th Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, Geneva, December, 1976.

TODAY'S CHILDREN — TOMORROW'S FUTURE. International Year of the Child Publication.

1979

DOCUMENTS ON THE IYC WORLD CONFERENCE, MOSCOW, September 7-11, 1979.


1980

REPORT ON WOMEN'S DELEGATION TO VIETNAM AND KAMPUCHEA, December, 1979.

UAW 50th ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

NATIONAL COMMITTEE
James W. Thompson
1000 ...
Detroit, Michigan 48226





UAW 30th ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Audrey McDonald,
National Secretary,
Union of Australian Women,
Room 25, Trades Hall,
Goulburn Street, Sydney, 2000
Telephone 26-2880

*Branches of the Union of Australian Women
may be contacted at the following addresses:*

N.S.W.

Secretary,
Union of Australian Women,
Room 24, Trades Hall,
Goulburn St., Sydney. 2000.
Telephone 26-2880

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Margaret Pamment,
Secretary,
Union of Australian Women,
Room 32, Paringa Bldg.,
13 Hindley St., Adelaide. 5000.
Telephone 337-9906

VICTORIA

Betty Olle,
Secretary,
Union of Australian Women,
Room 5, Floor 2a, Block Arcade,
280 Collins St., Melbourne. 3000.
Telephone 63-7409

QUEENSLAND

Jenny Prohaska,
Secretary,
Union of Australian Women,
459 Ann St., Brisbane. 4000.
Telephone 21-7892

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Roma Gilchrist,
35 Elmhurst Way,
Greenwood. 6042.

ISBN No. 9598730 9 0

Authorised by Audrey McDonald, National Secretary, Union of
Australian Women, Room 25, Trades Hall, Goulburn Street,
Sydney, 2000.