

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.netspeed.com.au

April 2008

(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.