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The Fay Gale Centre for Research on Gender



'The Challenge of Social Democracy': Don Dunstan and women's rights in 1970s South Australia

Presented by Angela Woollacott
Manning Clark Professor of History, Australian National University



Event details

Date: Friday 7th April 2017

Time: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Venue: Ira Raymond Room, Barr
Smith Library, University of Adelaide

Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP for catering purposes by
Monday 3rd April to:
renae.fernandez@adelaide.edu.au

Campus Map:

[http://www.adelaide.edu.au/campuses/
northtce](http://www.adelaide.edu.au/campuses/northtce)

Under Don Dunstan (Premier from 1967-68 and 1970-79), South Australia achieved major constitutional reform and led the nation in a range of areas from Aboriginal rights to the decriminalization of homosexuality. With the assistance of his Women's Adviser Deborah McCulloch, Dunstan also improved women's lives from the availability of kindergarten places, to permanent part-time work and tackling sexism in education. His governments criminalized marital rape, passed a Sex Discrimination Act and appointed an Equal Opportunities Commissioner. This paper will consider Dunstan's work towards equality for women, in the context of the Women's Liberation Movement, the Women's Electoral Lobby and national reforms. Drawn from a biography in progress, it will also consider influences on Dunstan's thinking, including the impact of several important women in his life.

Bio: Angela Woollacott is the Manning Clark Professor of History at the Australian National University, and the Immediate Past President of the Australian Historical Association. Her latest book *Settler Society in the Australian Colonies: Self-Government and Imperial Culture* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2015) was shortlisted for the 2015 Queensland Literary Awards--University of Southern Queensland History Prize. Woollacott is currently researching and writing a biography of Don Dunstan, supported by an Australian Research Council Discovery grant.