

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1456

Gilling, Bridget Sabina

(1922 - 2009)

Nationality Australian

Born 1 January, 1922, London United Kingdom

Died 31 December, 2009, Blue MountainsBlue Mountains New South Wales

Occupation Activist, Political candidate

Summary

Bridget Gilling was a lifelong activist and fighter for social justice. She ran as an Independent in the New South Wales Legislative Assembly for Bligh in 1971, but the following year she joined the Australia Party. She then stood as their candidate for election into the House of Representatives for Warringah (1972) and for the New South Wales Senate in 1974.

Details

Born in London, Bridget Gilling grew up in a family which was vitally interested in politics. During World War II she served with the Voluntary Aid Detachment and met and married an Australian serviceman, Douglas Gilling, later a prominent architect. They returned to Australia after the war, and their four children were born in Sydney. As they grew up, Bridget Gilling completed an Arts/Social Work degree at the University of Sydney.

At the time of her campaign in Bligh, Bridget Gilling was working for a community agency and was very concerned with birth control and the campaign for abortion law reform.

Her campaign literature was critical of all major parties and their failure to present policies on these subjects, whereas her beliefs and promises on them were spelled out in detail.

She joined the Australia Party and ran under that banner in 1972 and 1974, unsuccessfully.

In 1987, Bridget Gilling was approached as a prominent women's movement activist, to lend her weight to the campaign against the Australia Card proposal, and she agreed to become a trustee of the Australian Privacy Foundation.

In 2004, Bridget Gilling wrote one of the most telling and pithiest letters to the *Sydney Morning Herald* on the subject of abortion, which remained one of her chosen causes.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html>

Newspaper Article

Campaigner for all things liberal, Stephens, Tony, 2009,

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/obituaries/campaigner-for-all-things-liberal-20090701-d54h.html>

Author Details

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