



Parliament of Western Australia

Education Newsletter, Term 1, 2024

The Parliamentary Education Office (PEO) welcomes all HASS teachers to the school year. In our first edition of POWA House for 2024, we highlight school tours at Parliament House and share the story of the Honourable Ruby Hutchison during the 70th anniversary of her election to the Western Australian Legislative Council.

Tours at Parliament

Great news! Our Education tours have commenced for 2024 and bookings are filling fast. Our 60-minute tours run on both sitting and non-sitting days and students also have the opportunity to meet their elected members of Parliament. The tours are free, interactive, informative and engaging and every effort is made to tailor learning experiences to current classroom or whole school programs. Courtesy of our members, each student who visits Parliament during one of our school tours receives a pin as a lasting memento of WA Parliament. Remember, if your school is located more than 150km from Perth you can apply for the \$400 yearly travel rebate. Find out more about [tours](#).



Attention teachers! With the next election scheduled for March 2025, don't forget to get in fast with your term 4 school tour booking as this will provide a great opportunity to support your civics teaching in the lead up to the state election.



The PEO is here to help teachers.

Downloadable teacher and interactive student civics and citizenship workbooks are available [online](#).



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Honouring Ruby Hutchison

This year we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the first woman elected to the Western Australian Legislative Council, the Honourable Ruby Hutchison.

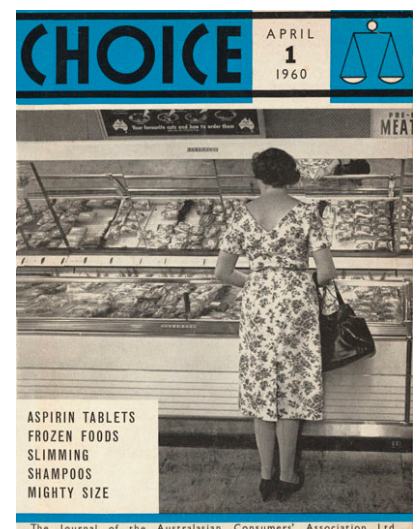
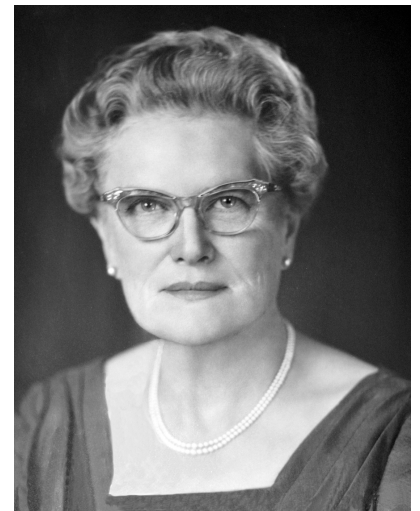
Ruby, the first woman elected to any Australian Upper House, began her term on 22 May 1954 representing the Suburban Province. Ruby was the fourth woman elected to the WA Parliament, and the only woman in the Council during her career of seventeen years. Ruby said that she joined the Australian Labor Party at 16 years old.

During her political career Ruby advocated for a wide variety of causes including the right for women to serve on juries, child welfare, education and housing. She argued continuously for the reform or abolition of the Legislative Council, outraged at its property franchise. Eventually, Ruby saw the introduction of adult suffrage following the 1965 State General Election.

The mother of seven children, Ruby married three times. Her final marriage was to fellow parliamentarian Frederick Lavery, following which they became the first married couple to serve together in an Australian Parliament.

Outside of Parliament, Ruby was an active member in the community. She was the founding member of the Australian Consumers' Association and the founding member and President of the Epilepsy Association of Western Australia. She volunteered for the Scouts and Girl Guides, and was founder and 'chairman' of the Women's State Auxiliary of the Boy Scouts Association.

Ruby died on 17 December 1974 at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. She is buried at Karrakatta Cemetery, Western Australia. Former Premier, FJS Wise described Ruby as "rebellious and as having an overwhelming enthusiasm for her beliefs, she was a fiery speaker, and a tenacious crusader for democratic reform, women's rights and social justice".





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Parliamentary Education Office Farewells Cherie

When Cherie started work in our Education Office 24 years ago she started on a very steep learning curve. The more she learned, the more passionate Cherie became about engaging and enthusing our young people about our democracy. If you have ever contacted the PEO office with a question or to make a booking, or maybe you have visited Parliament on tour or have been visited on Regional Outreach, you have probably had the pleasure of meeting Cherie.



Cherie has decided it is time to make way for a new, enthusiastic person to join the Education Team while she is planning a future that includes visiting grandchildren in England and Ireland and spending more time with her husband in Margaret River. Whilst there is so much sadness in leaving something she has loved so much, there is also much joy in looking forward to the future. Our education team thanks Cherie for all her tireless work over the years and wishes her the very best.



Join the PEO

Our Parliamentary Education Office is a close-knit team with a passion for educating school and tertiary students, graduates and the community about civics and citizenship. Stay tuned to Parliament's [website](#) and our [socials](#) for opportunities to join our team in 2024!





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Connect with Parliament - virtually



COMING SOON

Your opportunity to give feedback on Parliament's new 360 degree virtual tour! This will be complete with short videos and curriculum-linked classroom activities for Years 5-10.

Can't make it to Parliament? Let us come to your school, virtually!

A Virtual Q&A session is a 30-minute information session with a Parliamentary Education Officer and is an exciting way for Parliament to visit your school. For Years 5 - 12, the session is tailored with a general overview of Parliament and then answers to student questions. These questions are emailed to the Education Office up to seven days prior to the session.

The set up is easy! All you need is a large screen, computer and Wi-Fi. Our online Parliamentary Educator will also be on-hand to assist with connection.

Booking availability can be viewed [online](#).

Pop-Up Parliament

Regional Outreach is back! Every year, the PEO travels to the regions with our Pop-Up Parliament. At the end of April/early May this year, the PEO is heading south to visit Manjimup, Pemberton, Denmark, Albany, Mt Barker, Kojonup and Katanning. Find out more about [outreach](#).



Stay connected with what's happening at #WAParliament by following our socials!



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