

Women's Web's Geraldine Robertson has compiled a book documenting women's history of 'suffrage and onwards'. Chapters cover 'Winning the Vote', 'Social Justice and Peace', 'Finding Our Voices as Women', and 'Our Strength, Our Struggle, Our Legacy'. For more information about the book contact Women's Web on (03) 9486 1808, or visit their website <http://www.womensweb.com.au/>

The launch of 'Women Working Together' in Autumn 2009 was hosted in partnership with the Women's Trust with speakers including Judy Small, Zeldia D'Aprano, and Moira Rayner.

At the launch, Moira Rayner compiled a clever quirky A-Z list of 'feminist enemies'. We thank Moira for permission to reproduce an edited version of this list .

A To Z of Feminist Enemies

A is for Arndt, Bettina. Do I need to explain why? And A is for Apathy - we haven't won the battle for equality, and defeat can be snatched from the jaws of victory at any time. When will we learn? Get involved.

B is for Balls. This is a sexist way of describing 'courage': apparently Premier Joan Kirner used to say in cabinet, deliberately, that some difficult course of action would take 'breasts'. B is also for bastardry - and there's plenty of it around, plenty of plotters who are supportive to your face but secretly undermine and intrigue to get you.

C is for chauvinism - still a good word - and for chronic fatigue which is what women who try to do everything get and learn to live with.

D is for double standards - why didn't the press run pictures of a high profile MP being blackmailed because of his alleged sexual orientation because it wasn't in the public interest, but did run pictures of a Pauline-Hanson sort-of-look-alike in a provocative unclad pose, because it was? And D is for Discrimination, and the backlash to 30 years of laws prohibiting it, which doesn't encourage women to address these issues explicitly.

E is for Energy, running out of, which is what happens if you try to do your big things without the support of other women and especially other feminists, and they don't have to be other women. And for Editors, like 'The Australian's', who welcomed Anna Bligh as the first woman to be elected Premier because it was, he said, the "death knell of EMILY's list" - and also claimed that Premiers Carmen Lawrence and Joan Kirner were only unpopular because their governments were "poor quality". Yeah, right, we've won the political battle. Not.

F is fundamentalism - strange how most of the major world religions over time develop a culture that adds a special, unwritten yet overriding and fundamental tenet of faith requiring the repression of women and the development of cultural institutions run by and for men, whose intervention between the people and God is exclusive as well as sacred.

G is for Guilt, a useless emotion particularly experienced by women who tried to 'have it all' and couldn't manage a 70 hour, seven day week for more than a few years.

H is for Harassment: sexist, as much as sexual, and ageist. And for Handcuffs, which are not a turn-on, however much pink fur they have decorating them.

I is for Ignorance. Paris Hilton who, (like me, has a Chihuahua in her handbag) and clearly doesn't appreciate that she has choices only because other women fought for her taken-for-granted rights to vote, own property, to equal opportunity including her right to choose how to use and exploit her own body.

J is for Journalists, who cannot be trusted. Believe me, I know. It was a woman journalist who rang and said they'd "do a paparazzi on me" if I didn't agree to a photo-shoot, and whose paper then staked out my father's home, so of course I did, and then was pilloried for 'seeking publicity.' And J is for Judgmental - we are far too hard on high-profile women.

K - Kryptonite. Even Superman couldn't fight against it. It's called lack of confidence, it comes from your childhood (planet), and it can be neutralised, but only by love.

L is for Laziness. Girls who can't be bothered voting. Who've got potential but don't want to be seen to be feminist.

M is for Men's Rooms. Tim Costello doing politics with Malcolm Turnbull in the Men's toilets, within ten minutes of our party, the Real Republicans, arriving at the Constitutional Convention, ten years ago. Somewhere I just couldn't go. Another definition of 'Men's room', from the Women's Power Handbook is, 'any room with politicians in it'.

N is for saying 'no' to challenges, or accepting 'no' as the final answer when our ambitions are denied.

O is for Obsequiousness. Never trust an ostentatiously humble person when you happen to be in a position of authority. Your back is always vulnerable to the darts of a Heep* in this world. [Dickens' character Uriah]

P is for taking it personally. Never take an attack personally, remember it is always political, and talk to your friends and mentors to get a proper perspective on the situation.

Q is for Quislings: men and women who sleep with the enemy, or who talk the equality talk but, once they get power, (because we gave it to them), reveal themselves as in league with the Dark Side, because things look so deliciously different from the top.

R is for Religion. Not spirituality. Not faith - I'm a Christian - but the institutions of organised religion, in which women do all the work and take all of the blame, but don't get to lead.

S is for solitude rather than solidarity. Feminism needs friendship.

T is for tension. This can be destructive and has to be managed - and can be used against the interests of women, who are socialised to back off in an argument if the other side seems upset or angry. And T is for Don't Be Too Polite - Glen Tomassetti's great song about equal pay, which we still don't have, girls: we still don't have.

U is for underground. There is no need to do everything in the full light of day. Our enemies love this. Make use of the dark.

V is for Viagra. It does nothing for women. Someone tell Bettina Arndt.

W is for women who want to be 'girls' - who gossip and put down other women, or don't speak up and support them.

X is for x-rated - I was astonished that a soapie should censor a quick pic of two women kissing, when it has happily shown in the same time slot, suicide, incest, murder, heterosexual foreplay and cruelty/kidnapping/torture of animals and people.

Y is for why are we doing this to each other?

Z is for Zelda, who fought and still fights the good fight and isn't an enemy, but reminds us of the other Z, the Zoo, which is the public life of women involved in protests, in parliament, or being mobbed by paparazzi.