

**Happy 40th Birthday to all WEL Victoria members
by Kerry Lovering, Convenor of WEL Victoria Inc.**

40 years on we can all be proud of what WEL has achieved.

Certainly there are still unsolved problems and unfinished business but we can celebrate our successes in changes to the status of women.

Paid parental leave, equal pay for community service workers and rights to every job in the Defence Forces are the most recent successes.

One woman was in Federal Parliament in 1972 and one in the Victorian Parliament. In 2012 there are 38 women in the House of Representatives, 29 in the Senate, 29 in the Victorian Legislative Assembly and there are 12 in the Legislative Council.

There are three women High Court Judges. Universities now have eight woman Chancellors and ten Vice Chancellors. And we are slowly getting women directors--13.8 percent in 2012.

So we can celebrate and we did.

Sorry for those of you who couldn't get there – it was 38 degrees centigrade and the Hellenic festival blocked all of Lonsdale Street. But the party was great fun-- lots of champagne and a birthday cake cut by the oldest member present, Mary Owen, and the longest serving member present, Iola Matthews.

**On IWD, Thursday March 8th 2012, Federation Square
will show our message wishing Women's Electoral
Lobby Happy 40th Birthday!**