



GRADUATE WOMEN NSW

SOPHIA HOLLAND LECTURE 2026

11 am, Friday 22 May

Castlereagh Room, 2nd Floor

Castlereagh Boutique Hotel

\$20 (for room hire)

Speaker: Jozefa Sobski

Topic: 'Educate to Liberate' – Joan Bielski AO Citizen Activist

Jozefa Sobski is a long-time friend and activist colleague of Joan Bielski, in whose honour GW NSW's Award continues to give the opportunity to women who missed out on going to university after leaving school and who are 35 years and over. She will tell the story of Joan's life and work.



Jozefa Sobski AM

Jozefa has been active in feminist, women's and community organisations for many years. She started her activism in Sydney Women's Liberation in the 1970s. She was the Chair of the Board of Jessie Street National Women's Library for 17 years. She was Convenor of WEL NSW for periods from 2006-2017. She was Convenor of WEL Australia from 2018-2019 and Convenor again from 2021-2024. She was a member of the Board of Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia for ten years and an inaugural member of the NSW Women in Education group and the Australian Women's Education Coalition. She worked in the NSW Ministry of Education as a policy adviser on sexism and in TAFE as a Principal of a College and Director of South Western Sydney Institute of TAFE, and for three years Deputy Director-General of NSW Education. She retired from paid employment in 2003. She is a member of the National Foundation of Australian Women, Immigrant Women's Speakout Association, Full Stop Australia and Emily's List. Jozefa has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Education by the University of Technology Sydney. She promises to be a lively and interactive speaker.



Joan Bielski AO

Joan Bielski was an indefatigable feminist of her time. She was an activist who used her prodigious intellect, charm and ready wit to disarm critics and opponents and to win supporters to her many causes. She was energetic, feisty, very focused and politically pragmatic - an inspiration to many who rallied to the causes she espoused and relentlessly pursued. Joan was quoted as once saying: *My life's work has convinced me that in a democratic society those without power, but with the will and the skill and, with a case presented with reasoned advocacy, can affect reform.*

Joan is a past trustee of the Education Trust and a major benefactor of the Trust which funds the Bielski Scholarship.

Please RSVP by **19 May** to admin@gwnsw.org.au.

Online Payment: GW-NSW, BSB: 012 670, Acc: 300 706 398

Cheque payment: GW-NSW, LG Floor, 280 Pitt St, Sydney 2000

(If paying by cheque - please add \$5.00 for processing fees)

