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L.W. NEAL POLITICAL PAPERS

LAURENCE WILLIAM NEAL (b. 18 July 1947, Wangaratta, Victoria) was a National Country Party Senator for Victoria in 1980-81. He was chosen by the Parliament of Victoria on 11 March 1980 under section of 15 the Constitution to represent the State in the Senate following the resignation of the Hon. J.J. Webster, who had been appointed Australian High Commissioner to Canada. His term expired on 30 June 1981.

Neal had taught in the secondary school system and tutored in Education at La Trobe University, where he was Deputy Head of Glenn College (1979-81) and a foundation member of the University's Convocation (1978-81). His particular interest in education is reflected in his papers, as well as in his membership of the Senate's Standing Committee on Education and the Arts. He was also a member of Senate's Estimates Committees F & H. In February 1981 Neal visited Japan in company with other members of the government parties—a visit that was to kindle his on-going engagement with Japan, its people and their culture.

Neal was an active and dedicated Party member who worked hard (as his papers reveal) to fend off the challenge posed to the Party in the Senate by the Australian Democrats. He was a long-standing member of the Young Country Party Victoria (Senior Vice-President, 1971); a member of Victorian Party's Central Council (1975-80, 1982-90), its Executive (1978-80, 1982-83) and its Management Committee (1984-90). Neal chaired the *National Outlook* Board of Management in 1976-80 and was its editor in 1979-80.

Laurie Neal was Senior Vice-President of the Victorian Party in 1982-86 and President in 1986-88. He was offered, but declined, appointment as the National Country Party's Federal Director in 1981.