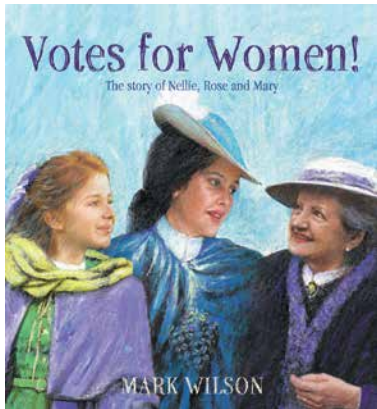


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## Votes for Women! The Story of Nellie, Rose and Mary

By **Mark Wilson**

Lothian Children's Books

32 pages, hardcover

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ISBN: 9780734420138

RRP: \$26.99

Reviewed by *Holly Bracken, Bayswater  
Secondary College*

*Votes for Women!* is an immersive picture book aimed at young readers, telling the story of the women who first won the right to vote in Australia. The historical figures of Mary Lee, Rosetta Birks and Nellie Fisher are the central characters in this story, along with the countless women who fought for equal voting rights in South Australia.

My cause is the cause of womanhood, no bluster or denunciation will silence me while one wrong to womanhood exists of which I have knowledge, or against which I have the power to protest.

Mary Lee, *Adelaide Observer*,  
22 August 1891

Mark Wilson's paintings fill this book, and were inspired by the French and Australian impressionist painters Pierre-Auguste Renoir, Claude Monet, Fred McCubbin and Arthur Streeton. The use of this impressionist style creates a very real sense of the late 1800s, inviting the reader to engage in what life was like for women at this time.

The style of the illustrations beautifully match the narrative, and include excerpts of the petition presented to the South Australian Parliament. The inclusion of these primary sources makes *Votes for Women!* a useful resource for those teaching History in an early primary setting. There is much scope to elaborate on these primary sources to add authenticity to an investigation on suffrage and the experiences of women in Australia during the late 1800s.