The Australian
Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0650

Greville, Henrietta

(1861 - 1964)

Born	18611009, Dunedin New Zealand
Died	19640829, Lakemba New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Activist, Trade unionist

Summary

Henrietta Greville established her life-long involvement with the labour movement when she moved to the goldfields at West Wyalong, following the breakdown of her marriage to John Collins. Here she pegged out a claim, sold meals to the miners and helped establish a branch of the Political Labor League, as well as meeting her future husband, miner and union organizer, Hector Greville. To help support her family Greville, at times, worked as a seamstress. Later she became an organizer for the Australian Workers' Union, the Women Workers' Union, and for some time acted as its delegate at the Trades and Labor Council. As a Labor candidate, Greville was defeated for the federal seat of Wentworth in 1917 and the state seat of Vaucluse in 1927. Greville became associated with the Workers' Educational Association of New South Wales in 1914 when she joined an economics class. By 1918 she was branch secretary at Lithgow, became a member of the executive in 1919 and the first woman president in 1920. Greville was still active with the association in 1954, at the age of 94. On 1 January 1958 Henrietta Greville was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire for social welfare services in New South Wales.

Events

1954 - 1954
Aged 94 directed a group of women studing sex hygiene for WEA

1958 - 1958
Appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire for social welfare services in New South Wales

1945 - 1945
Became a life-member of the Union of Australian Women

1916 - 1917
Campaigned against conscription

1890 - 1890
Delegate to Trades and Labor Council

1920 - 1920
First woman to be elected president of WEA

1914 - 1914
Joined the first tutorial class of the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) of New South Wales and studied economics for two years

1891 - 1891
Joined the Labor Party

1927 - 1927
Labor candidate for the New South Wales State seat of Vaucluse

1894 -
Married Hector Greville a miner and union organizer

1881 -
Married John Collins a jeweller at Albury Registry Office

1866 - 1866
Moved with her parents Henry and Rebecca (née Hutchinson) Wyse and siblings from New Zealand to Victoria

1890 - 1890
Organiser for the Australian Workers Union

1908 - 1908
Organizer for the White Workers' Union and attacked the working conditions and wages of female shirt-makers

1938 - 1938
President of the Labor Women's Advisory Council

1917 - 1917
Stood, unsuccessfully, for the Federal electorate seat of Wentworth, representing the Women's Central Organising Committee of the Australian Labor Party

1940 - 1940
Worked for the Rockdale branch of the Original Old Age and Invalid Pensioners' Association

Published resources

Edited Book
Australian Feminism: A Companion, Caine, Barbara, Gatens, Moira et al., 1998

Book
More Than a Hat and Glove Brigade: The Story of the Union of Australian Women, Curthoys, B. (Barbara) and McDonald, Audrey, 1996

Henrietta Greville : veteran Labor pioneer, A group of friends, 1958

Resource Section
Greville, Henrietta (1861 - 1964), Vinter, Mary, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090107b.htm

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection
William Morrow - recordings of addresses given by Jessie Street, and interviews with Jessie Street, 1953-1960

Author Details
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