Entry type: Organisation
Entry ID: AWE0733

The Victorian Women’s Suffrage Society

(1884 - 1908)

Born	18840101, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	19081231, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Women's Rights Organisation

Summary

The Victorian Women’s Suffrage Society, the first women’s suffrage society in Australia, was founded in 1884 largely due to the efforts of Henrietta Dugdale and Annie Lowe. Dugdale, very much a ‘freethinker’, claimed to been Victoria’s first activist for women’s suffrage-having publicly advocated women’s suffrage since 1868, along with married women’s property rights and the admission of women to the universities. In 1883 she published a utopian novel, A Few Hours in a Far Off Age, which she used as a vehicle for her then radical ideas about education, marriage, Christianity and rational dress for women. The Society’s platform was ‘To obtain the same political privileges for women as now possessed by male voters’. It had both male and female members.

Details

Archival note:
As of 2003, it appears that there is no specific collection of papers relating to the Society. Its activities were, however, extensively reported in the Melbourne press and women’s journals, particularly, for the years 1900-1905, Vida Goldstein’s *The Australian Woman’s Sphere*.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book
Woman suffrage in Australia : a gift or a struggle?, Oldfield, Audrey, 1992

Votes for women : the Australian story, Lees, Kirsten., 1995

The Australian Woman's Sphere, 1900-1905

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection
Scott Family (Rose Scott) papers, 1777-1925 [MLMSS 38/1-79]

Author Details
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