

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0969

Kumm, Frances Gertrude

(1886 - 1966)

Born	8 April, 1886, Collingwood Victoria Australia
-------------	---

Died	4 June, 1966, South Yarra Victoria Australia
-------------	--

Occupation	Community worker, Women's rights activist
-------------------	---

Summary

Frances Gertrude Kumm (nee Cato), influenced by her mother F.J. Cato and sister Una Porter (nee Cato) – both ardent Young Women's Christian Association supporters – joined the Young Women's Christian Association's National World Fellowship Committee in 1931 and was made president of the Young Women's Christian Association of Melbourne (1943 – 1945).

Kumm held the office of National president from 1945 – 1951, visiting 'all local associations' throughout Australia during this time. She attended the World Young Women's Christian Association Council meetings in China (1947) and Lebanon (1951) and was 'for some time' Vice President of the World Young Women's Christian Association Council.

Instrumental in early Young Women's Christian Association immigration committees, Kumm was elected to the Commonwealth Immigration Advisory Council in 1949 and was President of the Victoria National Council of Women. She received an OBE in 1948 and made the Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Details

Served on numerous committees: National World Fellowship (joined 1931); National Extension (1938-40); Southern Regional (1944). It is claimed in the sources that she had an ongoing interest in immigration issues, which led to her election to the Immigration Advisory Council.

Published resources

Resource Section

Kumm, Frances Gertrude (1886-1966), McCalman, Janet, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150057b.htm>

Book

The Dauntless Bunch : The Story of the YWCA in Australia, Dunn, Margaret, 1991

Thesis

The Mother's anxious future : Australian Christian Women's Organisations meet the modern world, 1890s-1930s, Warne, Ellen Mary, 2000

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Archival resources

The University of Melbourne Archives

Young Women's Christian Association of Australia

Author Details

Francesca Bussey

Created 24 May 2004

Last modified 8 March 2019