Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE2886

Williamson, Ada Jean Hounsell

(1891 - 1977)

Born	18911031, Belmont New South Wales Australia
Died	19770114, Ashfield New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Journalist

Summary

Jean Williamson was a journalist who succeeded Florence Baverstock as social editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1918. In 1933 she moved to the *Women's Weekly* and by 1934, she edited a page entitled 'New Books'. She recalled: 'I didn't like it at first but there came an upsurge of excitement when country women began writing such intimate letters saying how *The Weekly* enriched their lives-revealing unconsciously their loneliness. I began to think of the shortage of lighter-type reading matter in my family home in the country and my ideas changed'.

In 1936 she went to the revamped *Daily Telegraph* where she was appointed as one of its 'Ten Brilliant Editors'. She was one of the best-known women journalists at the time, one who combined 'a rare understanding of women's interests with a polished newspaper technique'.

Published resources

Newspaper Article
Christina Stead Tells of Her Latest Book, Williamson, Jean, 1935

Site Exhibition
The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008, http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section
Williamson, Ada Jean Hounsell (1891-1977), Lawson, Valerie, 2006, http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A160660b.htm

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