

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE2900

## Holman, Ada Augusta

(1869 - 1949)

---

**Born** 3 October, 1869, Ballarat Victoria Australia

---

**Died** 3 April, 1949, Australia

---

**Occupation** Feminist, Journalist, Novelist, Print journalist

---

### Summary

Before she married W.A Holman in 1901, Ada Kidgell had established herself as an intelligent and energetic journalist. By 1896 she was publishing short stories, reviews and political and literary items, using her own name, 'Marcus Malcolm' and 'Nardoo'. As 'Myee' she sent 'Our Sydney letter' to Melbourne *Punch*. She was a frequent contributor to the *Sydney Mail*, *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Freeman's Journal*. She edited and wrote most of the copy for the *Co-operator*, a trade journal for rural producers. She continued journalism after marriage, sometimes ghosting items which appeared under her husband's name. The Labor Party benefited from her ability to place items sympathetic to its programme in the non-Labor press.

Ada Holman's political views were well formed before her marriage to her New South Wales Labor politician husband. She was republican and a critic of the Constitution, of the South African War and of inequality, whether related to class or sex. She enjoyed writing on these topics, but found that once her husband was installed in the NSW cabinet in 1910, her output was restricted; her short stories continued to appear but little else.

Ada Holman resented both the limitations to her own work consequent on being married to a prominent politician, and the demands on women to conform to notions of middle class femininity that restricted women's experience to that of only wife and mother. Women would be free, she wrote to Australian author Dowell O'Reilly, when motherhood affected woman's life 'only to the same degree as parenthood does a man'.

### Events

**1970 - 1910**

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Holman, Ada Augusta (1869-1949), Radi, Heather, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090343b.htm>

#### 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

## Archival resources

### **Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection**

[Ada A. Holman - papers, 1866-1936, together with papers of William Arthur Holman, 1912-1932](#)

[Ada A. Holman papers, 1856, ca. 1890-1946](#)

[Mrs W. A. Holman, 1917 / painted by John Samuel Watkins](#)

### **Author Details**

Nikki Henningham

**Created** 12 December 2007

**Last modified** 20 November 2018