Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3753

Smyth, Brettena

(1840 - 1898)

Born	18400101, Kyneton Victoria Australia
Died	18980215, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Advocate, Suffragist

Summary

Brettena was a mature woman of 43 when she became involved in politics – by then a widow, a business owner, and the mother of several children. In 1888 she formed the Australian Women's Suffrage Society, later enveloped by the Victorian Women's Franchise League. A freethinker, Smyth was opposed to orthodox religion and strongly advocated the use of birth control. In 1893 she published *The Limitation of Offspring*, and she sold rubber pessaries at her grocery shop. Smyth was a competent public speaker and a respected Melbourne identity in the 1890s.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

Book
They Are But Women: The Road to Female Suffrage in Victoria, School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne, 2007

Resource Section
Smyth, Bridgetena (Brettena) (1840c -1898), Kelly, Farley, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A120001b.htm

Mrs J B Smyth of Oxley Road, Harris, Helen,
http://wiki.prov.vic.gov.au/index.php/Smyth

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