

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE3753

## Smyth, Brettana

(1840 - 1898)

<b>Born</b>	18400101, Kyneton Victoria Australia
<b>Died</b>	18980215, Melbourne Victoria Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Advocate, Suffragist

### Summary

Brettana 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

#### Book

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

#### Resource Section

Smyth, Bridgetena (Brettana) (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>

#### Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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