Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4105

Macdonald, Amelia Morrison Fraser

(1865 - 1946)

Born	18650617, Blackburn Linlithgowshire Scotland
Died	19460831, Subiaco Western Australia Australia
Occupation	Church worker, Social reformer, Tailoress, Women's rights activist

Summary

Born, educated and married in Scotland, Amelia Macdonald migrated to Australia in 1887, living first in Sydney where, for nine years, she ran a tailoring business. In 1896 she and her husband, Alexander, moved to Perth, where she lived for the rest of her life.

Her own experience of losing her mother at an early age, along with that of her niece who was orphaned as a young woman, no doubt made her acutely aware of the precariousness of women's fortunes, and how intricately connected they were to those of men. Macdonald spent all her adult life working towards untangling these connections and reforming the legal, educational and social structures that operated to oppress women and children.

Connected to the church (she taught Anglican Sunday School classes), she was also deeply influenced by the ideas of the Theosophists. Their guiding ideals of spiritual force, service, social reform, universal education and equal citizenship provided the platform for the Women's Services Guilds Of Western Australia, an organisation Macdonald helped to establish in 1909. She was also important on the establishment of the National Council of women in W.A. and she supported the Workers' Educational Association and the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

Published resources

Resource Section
Macdonald, Amelia Morrison Fraser (1865-1946), Ogilvie, June, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150226b.htm

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

State Library of Western Australia
Minute books, 1935-1937 [manuscript]

Women's Service Guilds of Western Australia records

Papers, 1909-1991 [manuscript]

Papers, 1920-1944 [manuscript]

Australian Historic Records Register
Girl Guides Association, WA (Inc.)

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