

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4114

Hart, Helen

(1842 - 1908)

Born	6 March, 1842, Birmingham England
Died	16 July, 1908, South Yarra Victoria Australia
Occupation	Feminist, Lecturer, Suffragist

Summary

Helen Hart was a feminist preacher and lecturer who actively campaigned for women's rights and suffrage in Britain, New Zealand and Australia. She was the first woman to speak publicly in many regions on the subject of women's rights and, as such, she was subjected to physical assault, practical jokes—such as having fireworks thrown at her—derision and even sexual harassment.

In her childhood, Hart became involved with anti-slavery and temperance movements, and began open-air preaching from the age of 19. She was in London by the 1860s, working as a lecturer and possibly a journalist. In 1876 she was on the executive committee of the National Society for Women's Suffrage and on the provisional executive committee of the Association to Promote Women's Knowledge of the Law. As such she was known to many of the leaders of the women's movement. Although she considered herself a leader of the women's suffrage movement in Australia, others did not acknowledge her as such.

Published resources

Resource Section

Hart, Helen (1842-1908), Harris, Helen D., 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10208b.htm>

Helen Hart, Harris, Helen, 2008,
http://wiki.prov.vic.gov.au/index.php/Hart%2C_Helen

Book

Helen Hart 'Founder of Women's Suffrage in Australasia', Harris, Helen D., 2009

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Author Details

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Created 20 April 2009
Last modified 20 April 2009