Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4287

Bailey, Margaret Ann Montgomery

(1879 - 1955)

Born	18790609, Toowoomba Queensland Australia
Died	19550605, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Headmistress, Teacher

Summary

Margaret Ann Montgomery Bailey was the longest serving headmistress of Ascham School. She experimented with new learning methods, introducing the ‘Dalton plan’, a philosophy of learning which emphasises self-responsibility and independence, into the senior school in 1922.

She was educated at the Newnham School for Girls, Toowoomba, and attended the University of Sydney, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in 1900.

Details

After graduating from University of Sydney, Margaret Bailey returned to Queensland to teach. She had two stints at Rockhampton Girls’ Grammar (1900-03, 1908-11) with a stint at Girton College, Toowoomba (1903-1907) in between.

For two years between 1912-14 she studied abroad. Upon returning she joined the staff at Ascham School in Darling Point, Sydney, which she purchased with another staff Her most adventurous move as principal was the 1922 introduction into the senior school of a modified version of the ‘Dalton plan’, a philosophy of learning which emphasises self-responsibility and independence. She resigned as principal of Ascham in 1946.

As the principal of Ascham School from 1916 to 1946, Bailey was active in the Headmistresses’ Association of Australia and the New Education Fellowship.

She also served as vice-president and president of the Sydney University Women Graduates’ Association, and was an executive member of the Australian Federation of University Women.

Published resources

Resource Section
Bailey, Margaret Ann Montgomery (1879-1955), Lundie, Margaret, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070144b.htm

Resource
Ascham School Website, Ascham School, 2009,
http://www.ascham.nsw.edu.au/index.html

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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