Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4347

Macdonald, Louisa

(1858 - 1949)

Born	18581210, Arbroath Forfarshire Scotland
Died	19491128, London England
Occupation	Educationist, Suffragist, Women's rights activist

Summary

Louisa Macdonald was the first Principal of the Women’s College at the University of Sydney.

Details

As Principal of the Women’s College, Macdonald played an active role in university life. She was involved in the Sydney University Women’s Association, which she helped found in 1892; the University Women’s Society (University Settlement); and the Women’s Club.

During the 1890s she was also active in the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales and the Women’s Literary Society.

In 1907 Macdonald was the first woman to stand for the University Senate, but was defeated.

Events

1884 - 1884
Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in classics, University of London

1907 - 1907
First woman to stand for the University of Sydney Senate, but was defeated

1886 - 1886
Master of Arts, University of London

1892 - 1892
Moved to Australia to become the founding Principal of the Women’s College, University of Sydney

1919 - 1919
Returned to London, where she joined the council of the University of London

1914 - 1915
Vice-President of the Classical Association of New South Wales

1890 - 1910
While Principal of Women’s College, Macdonald continued to pursue her interest in classics, lecturing and cataloguing the Greek vases in the Nicholson Musuem of Antiquities.

1887 -
Worked as a private tutor, and as a researcher in classical antiquities at the British Museum.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Miss Louisa Macdonald 1858-1949, The Women's College, 2009,
http://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/louisa.html

Resource Section
Macdonald, Louisa (1858-1949), Alexander, H., 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100245b.htm

Book
Letters from Louisa: A Woman's View of the 1890s, Based on the Letters of Louisa Macdonald, First Principal of the Women's College, University of Sydney, Beaumont, Jeanette and W. Vere Hole, 1996

The History of the Women's College within the University of Sydney, Hole, W. Vere and Anne H. Treweeke, 1953

Pamphlet
A mask / designed by Louisa Macdonald ; verses composed by C.J. Brennan and J. le Gay Brereton, Macdonald, Louisa, 1913

Archival resources

University of Sydney, Archives
A mask/designed by L.M.

Archives of the Women's College, University of Sydney

State Library of New South Wales
Letters by Louisa Macdonald, 1892-1898

Author Details
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