Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0145

Russell, Delia Constance

(1870 - 1938)

Born	18700405, South Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	19380216, East Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Community worker, Women's rights activist

Summary

Delia Russell, née Law, was active across a range of charitable organisations throughout her life. Educated at the Oberwyl School in Melbourne, she married Percy Joseph Russell, solicitor and municipal councillor in October 1893. Delia Russell's major interests were the Red Cross Society; she remained a member of the Victorian Council until her death in 1938. She founded and ran the St Kilda Red Cross kitchen during World War I, and worked on special diets for influenza patients. She was appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire for her work in 1920. Her subsequent commitments included Victorian president of the Housewives' Association (1929-1930 – although she was expelled from this group in 1930 due to her anti-prohibition stance), vice-president of the Victorian Institute of Almoners, councillor of the Talbot Epileptic Colony, Clayton, an executive member of the National Council of Women, president of the Australian Temperance Association (which fought against prohibition), a justice of the peace and special magistrate of the Children's Court, Melbourne. She was president of the Women's Hospital committee from 1932-1934.

Published resources

Resource Section
Russell, Percy Joseph (1861-1946), Balmford, Peter, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110494b.htm

Russell, Delia Constance (1870 - 1938), Biddington, Judith, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10421b.htm

Journal Article
A Mission to the Home: The Housewives Association, the Woman's Christian Temperance Union and Protestant Christianity, 1920-1940, Smart, Judith, 1998

Book
The Early years of the Housewives Association of Victoria, 1915-1930, Oldfield, Robert, 1989

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Archival resources

State Library of Victoria
Records, 1939-1985. [manuscript].

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