Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0151

Hughes, Agnes Eva

(1856 - 1940)

Born	18560101, South Yarra Victoria Australia
Died	19400610, St Kilda Victoria Australia
Occupation	Charity worker, Political activist

Summary

Eva Hughes was a prominent figure in women's groups as well as charitable and patriotic organisations in Melbourne from the early 1900s. She became second president of the influential, politically conservative, anti-socialist group the Australian Women's National League (1909-1922), after the death of her sister Janet Lady Clarke.

During the First World War she encouraged war-work and became a member of the Australian League of Honour, the Lady Mayoress's Patriotic Fund and the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives and Mothers. She supported the government's conscription campaign, and garner support through her presidency of the Australian Women's National League. On 4 October 1918 Eva Hughes was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) (OBE) for services as president of the League. Following her retirement as president, Hughes continued to act as an adviser, and was made a life patroness and a life member of the League's council.

Events

1918 - 1918
Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire

1904 - 1904
Chaired first general meeting of the Australian Women's National League, and later organized the St Kilda branch

1914 - 1918
Encouraged league members in war-work

1916 - 1916
Formally presented to the minister for defence, (Sir) George Pearce, a ward of 36 beds in Caulfield Military Hospital

1914 - 1918
Member of the Australian League of Honour

1914 - 1918
Member of the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives and Mothers

1914 - 1918
Member of the Lady Mayoress's Patriotic Fund

1909 - 1922
State president of the Australian Women's National League

Published resources

Edited Book
Double Time: Women in Victoria - 150 Years, Lake, Marilyn and Kelly, Farley, 1985

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

Book
Nation builders : great lives and stories from St Kilda General Cemetery, Eidelson, Meyer, 2001

Liberal women : Federation to 1949, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2004

History of the Australian Women's National League

Women of influence: the first fifty years of women in the Liberal Party, Sydenham, Diane, 1996

Journal
The Woman, The Australian Women's National League, 1907-1934

Book Section
Australian Women's National League, Smart, Judith, 1998

Eva Hughes: Militant Conservative, Smart, Judith, 1985

Resource Section
Hughes, Agnes Eva (1856-1940), Smart, Judith, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090389b.htm

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

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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