The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: PR00156

Berry, Margaret

(1832 - 1918)

Born	18320824, Naas Kildare Ireland
Died	19181103, New Farm Queensland Australia
Occupation	Educationist

Summary

Immigrating to Australia in 1856 to begin her career as a teacher, Margaret Berry was soon appointed to the position of headmistress and teacher trainer at Brisbane National School in 1860. She later moved to the Brisbane Girls' Normal School, where she became the first headmistress, serving there for forty-three years. Taking a stand for female teachers and students in Queensland, Berry was the only female teacher to give evidence to the *Royal Commission into Education* in 1874. She also campaigned for the equal pay of female teachers, as well as stressing her faith in the ability of senior girls to undertake advanced scientific subjects. Late in her career, she became an official examiner of female teachers.

Berry always expected the highest standards from her pupils and above all, she wanted her them to maintain a cultured mind and charming personality.

Published resources

Resource Section
Berry, Margaret (1832 - 1918), Watson, T., 2006, http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/AS10035b.htm

Book Section
Miss Berry: The Normal (Girls and Infants) School, McMullen, C., 1994

There Was a Spirit About the Place, Watson, T., 1992

Report
Royal Commission in Education, Votes and Proceedings (Queensland), 1875

Board of General Education (Queensland), Annual Report, 1860

Minister of Public Instruction (Queensland), Annual Report, 1876

Journal Article
Margaret Berry - a pioneer of Queensland education, Hewson, Jenny-Lea, 1991

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Queensland State Archives
Brisbane National School

Female Teachers Registrar

Author Details
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Created 22 June 2009
Last modified 21 November 2018