

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0054

Lyceum Club (Melbourne)

(1912 -)

Born 19120101, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Occupation Membership organisation

Summary

The Lyceum Club (Melbourne), established in 1912, was directly modelled on the lyceum clubs of England. Membership is restricted to women graduates and other women who had distinguished themselves in art, music, literature, philanthropy or public service.

Details

A group of women interested in forming a lyceum club in Melbourne first met in 1910. Later that year, Ethel Osborne, who had been instrumental in organising this meeting, London's Lyceum Club and reported back to the group on its operations. In 1912 Osborne was elected foundation vice-president of the new Lyceum Club (Melbourne). Its founders in Australia, as in London, hoped the Club would gain equal standing with the prestigious male clubs of the day. They were to provide a base for elite women's influence and advancement. As reflected in its admission requirements the clubs were particularly committed to furthering women's professional careers. They provided an arena in which elite professional women could form strong networks and cultivate useful contacts. Indeed, the Clubs were explicitly designed to provide a space for female networking – both locally and internationally. The Lyceum quickly became Melbourne's premier women's club, and by 1930 claimed 900 members. The Club continues today, although its influence has diminished.

Founding members included:

Dr Janet Lindsay Greig, Miss Jessie Webb, Miss Enid Derham, Dr Constance Ellis, Dr Georgina Sweet, Dr Jane Greig, Flos Greig, Mrs Ray Phillips, Miss Alice Michaelis, Mrs Mary Barden, Miss Dora de Beer, Miss Stella Deakin, Miss Elizabeth Lothian, Mrs Ida Latham, Mrs Eleanor Latham, Miss Mona McBurney, Miss Mary Baldwin and Mrs Jessie Nott.

Published resources

Book

The Lyceum Club, Melbourne 1912-1962., Gillison, Joan, 1962

Memorandum and articles of association of the Lyceum Club, [Arthur Phillips, Pearce and Just], 1915

Qualifications for membership and rules for Lyceum Club, Melbourne

A History of the Lyceum Club Melbourne, Gillison, Joan M, 1975

Jessie Webb, a memoir, Ridley, Ronald T, 1994

Literary Women: A checklist of work by members of the Lyceum Club, Melbourne, Stuart, Lurline, 1993

Report

Annual report / Lyceum Club Melbourne, [?1912-]

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

State Library of Victoria

[Records, ca. 1920-1979 \[manuscript\]](#)

[History of the Lyceum Club, and papers, 1970-1975. \[manuscript\].](#)

[Records, 1912-ca. 1970. \[manuscript\].](#)

[Records, 1910-2013. \[manuscript\].](#)

[Papers of Marnie Bassett, 1916-1974. \[manuscript\].](#)

[Papers, 1975-1985. \[manuscript\].](#)

Author Details

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