Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0097

Pankhurst, Adela Constantia Mary

(1885 - 1961)

Born	18850619, Chorlton upon Medlock Lancashire England
Died	19610523, Wahroonga Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Feminist, Pacifist, Political activist, Suffragist

Summary

Adela Pankhurst was a feminist and pacifist whose political affiliations shifted from communism to strong anti-communism over her lifetime of activism. Born in England, the daughter of Emmeline Pankhurst, Adela was involved with the British suffrage movement from her teenage years and then the Women's Social and Political Union which was founded by her mother and sisters in 1904. She later became estranged from her family and moved to Melbourne in 1914 partly for health reasons. Once there she worked with Vida Goldstein and the Women's Political Association and campaigned against conscription particularly with the Women's Peace Army. She also joined the Victorian Socialist Party. She married Tom Walsh, a fellow anti-conscriptionist, in 1917. After the war they moved to Sydney and had five children. They were foundation members of the Communist Party of Australia, but soon withdrew. Adela's evolving anti-communism became starkly apparent when, in 1928, she founded the Australian Women's Guild of Empire. Pankhurst used this conservative patriotic organisation as a platform to advocate the need for industrial cooperation, and she frequently spoke out against strikes. She ended her public life in 1943 with her husband's death.

Details

Adela Pankhurst toured Australia in 1915 with Vida Goldstein and Cecilia John to set up branches of the Women's Peace Army in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne.

Published resources

Resource
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Book
Adela Pankhurst: The wayward suffragette 1885-1961, Coleman, Verna, 1996

After the war what?: Being papers on The Duties of labor, and, The Unity and morality of the nation, Pankhurst, Adela, 1917

Australia and the Empire, Walsh, Adela Pankhurst

Book Section
Feminists, food and the fair price: The cost of living demonstrations in Melbourne, August/ September 1917, Smart, Judith, 1995

Brazen hussies and God's police fighting back in the depression years. [Revised version of article published in Hecate, v.8, no.1, 1982], Stone, Janey, 1998

The Australian Women's Guild of Empire, Castle, Josie, 1980

The unwritten history of Adela Pankhurst Walsh, Summers, Anne, 1980

Newspaper
The voice of the people: The people's welfare is the nation's strength, 1940

The Empire Gazette, 1929-1940

Pamphlet
Conditions in Japan: Lecture, Walsh, Adela Pankhurst, 1940

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The Enthusiasms of Adela Pankhurst Walsh, Damousi, Joy, 1993

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

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

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Thomas Walsh and Adela Pankhurst Walsh papers, 1905-1961 [manuscript]

Thomas Walsh and Adela Pankhurst Walsh papers, 1905-1961 [microform]

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Adela Constantia Mary Pankhurst Walsh, leader of suffragette movement, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

Author Details
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