

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE0453

## Marfell, Helena Catherine

(1898 - 1981)

---

**Born** 4 August, 1898, Camperdown Victoria Australia

---

**Died** 2 November, 1981, Geelong Victoria Australia

---

**Occupation** Community worker

---

### Summary

Helena Marfell was the inaugural national president of the Country Women's Association of Australia in 1945.

### Details

Marfell was a foundation member of the Warrnambool branch of the Country Women's Association (1931), and twice president of the South-Western Group. She was also a member of the Victorian State Executive, and state president from 1942 until 1945. President of the Women's Section of the Victorian Country Party, Marfell stood unsuccessfully for the federal seat of Wannon during the election in 1949.

During World War II Marfell was senior superintendent of the Warrnambool district for the Red Cross Society. She donated a silver teapot for use when the Country Women's Association served refreshments at the railway tea rooms to recruits leaving Warrnambool.

On 1 January 1968 Helena Marfell was appointed an Officer to the Order of the British Empire (Civil) for services to social welfare. She was honoured by being made a Life Governor of the Warrnambool Base Hospital and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

## Events

### **1870 - 1870**

Born daughter of Archibald Glen

### **1949 - 1950**

President of the Women's Section at the Victorian Country Party

### **1942 - 1945**

President of the South-Western Group of the Country Women's Association

### **1942 - 1945**

State President of the Country Women's Association

### **1945 - 1946**

National President of the Country Women's Association

### **1946 - 1946**

Member of the Corangamite Regional Committee

### **1943 - 1943**

Member of the State Relief Committee

### **1943 - 1943**

Member of the State Broadcasting Committee

### **1939 - 1945**

Senior Superintendent of the Red Cross in the Warrnambool district

### **1938 - 1939**

President of the South-Western Group of the Country Women's Association

### **1949 - 1949**

Country Party candidate for the electorate of Wannon at the Federal election

### **1918 - 1918**

Married Henry G Marfell, they had two children

### **1931 - 1931**

Helped found the Warrnambool Branch of the Country Women's Association

### **1968 - 1968**

Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire

## Published resources

### **Edited Book**

Who's Who in Australia 1962, Alexander, Joseph A, 1962

Who's Who in Australia 1950, Alexander, Joseph A, 1950

### **Book**

The Many Hats of Country Women: The Jubilee History of the Country Women's Association of Australia, Stevens-Chambers, Brenda, 1997

### **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>

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection**

[Records of the Country Women's Association of Australia, 1945-1969, 2003 \[manuscript\]](#)

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood

**Created** 6 March 2003

**Last modified** 1 February 2025