

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0554

Blackburn, Doris Amelia

(1889 - 1970)

Born 18 September, 1889, Auburn Victoria Australia

Died 12 December, 1970, Coburg Victoria Australia

Occupation Peace activist, Politician

Summary

The second woman member of the House of Representatives, Doris Blackburn successfully won her late husband's Federal seat of Bourke as an Independent Labor candidate in 1946. In an electoral redistribution the seat of Bourke was abolished and Blackburn contested the new seat of Wills at the 1949 and 1951 elections, but was unsuccessful on both occasions.

She was involved in the Free Kindergarten movement and numerous campaigns for better education, playgrounds and crèches. Blackburn was a member of the Women's Political Association in Victoria, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Women's Prison Council and the Save the Children Fund. In 1957, with Doug Nicholls, she was a co-founder of the Aboriginal Advancement League and the Federal Council for Aboriginal Advancement.

Events

1911 - 1911

Attended her first meeting of the Women's Political Association

2014 - 2014

Married Maurice McCrae Blackburn (died 1944), they were to have 2 sons and a daughter

1946 - 1950

Member House of Representatives (Independent) for Bourke, Victoria

1913 - 1913

Acted as campaign secretary for Vida Goldstein

1957 - 1957

Co-founded the Aboriginal Advancement League with Doug Nicholls

1916 - 1917

With her husband she was an anti-conscription campaigner

1952 - 1952

Travelled overseas as an emissary of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

1948 - 1948

President of the Council for Civil Liberties

Published resources

Book Section

Blackburn, Doris, Grahame, Emma, 1988

Doris Blackburn MHR: Radical Representative, Rasmussen, Carolyn, 1985

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1968, Legge, J S, 1968

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

Resource Section

Blackburn, Doris Amelia (1889-1970), Rasmussen, Carolyn, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130225b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

Shirley Andrews interviewed by Peter Read in the Peter Read collection of interviews conducted for his book entitled, Charles Perkins : a biography [sound recording]

Author Details

Anne Heywood

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