

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0580

## Webb, Jessie Stobo Watson

(1880 - 1944)

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**Born** 31 July, 1880, Ellerslie station, near Tumut New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 17 February, 1944, Linden Private Hospital St Kilda Victoria Australia

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**Occupation** Historian, Lecturer

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### Summary

Jessie Webb became the first female teacher at the University of Melbourne when she joined the History Department. A prominent figure in women's organisations she was a founding member of the Catalysts, the Lyceum Club, the Victorian Women Graduates Association, and the Women's College. Webb, who completed two major overseas trips, is permanently commemorated in the name of the History Department Library at the University of Melbourne.

### Events

#### 1911 - 1914

Served on the Princess Ida Club committee 1911-1912, 1914 and was delegate to the National Council of Women of Victoria

#### 2012 - 2044

Foundation member of the Lyceum Club

#### 1942 - 1944

Acting professor at the University of Melbourne

#### 1922 - 1923

Accompanied Dr Georgina Sweet on a journey from Cape Town to Cairo

#### 1924 - 1925

President of the Victorian Woman Graduates' Association

#### 1914 - 1914

Gave a paper to the Catalysts on the causes of war

#### 1916 - 1916

Gave a paper to the Catalysts on Crete

#### 1970 - 1970

Passed matriculation examinations aged 16 years. Obtained honours in English, History and French and passed in German, Geography and Physiology. She obtained the Exhibition in English and History.

#### 1970 - 1970

Enrolled at the University of Melbourne

#### 1901 - 1901

Winner of the Cobden Club medal

#### 2002 - 2002

Graduated Bachelor of Arts (BA)

**1970 - 1970**

Joined the Princess Ida Club. Membership number 222

**2001 - 2001**

Awarded the Wyselaskie Scholarship in English Constitutional History

**1901 - 1912**

Tutor in history and political economy at Trinity College

**1914 - 1921**

Principal of Coaching College at 6, The Block, Collins Street, Melbourne

**2006 - 2006**

Registered as a teacher under the Teachers and Schools Registration Act of 1905

**2008 - 2008**

Appointed by the University of Melbourne Council as an evening lecturer in history, to teach courses on the British Empire and Ancient History

**2009 - 2009**

Foundation member of the Royal Victorian Historical Society, membership number 30.

**1909 - 1909**

Elected president of the Princess Ida Club

**2010 - 2010**

One of the original 19 members who formed the Catalyts

**1923 - 1923**

Became a senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne

**1925 - 1925**

Acting professor at the University of Melbourne

**1933 - 1934**

Acting professor at the University of Melbourne

**2011 - 2011**

Gave a paper to the Catalyts titled 'Pragmatism, or the life and works of Annie Swan'

**1920 - 1922**

President of the Melbourne Lyceum Club

**1923 - 1923**

Alternate delegate to the League of Nations assembly

**1936 - 1936**

Completed second overseas trip. From England to North Africa, then back to France and by train to Athens, thence to Turkey, down to the Aegean coast and east as far as Cappadocia. She returned to Germany then to Syria and Iraq.

## Published resources

### Book

Degrees of liberation : a short history of women in the University of Melbourne, Kelly, Farley, 1985

150 years, 150 stories: brief biographies of one hundred and fifty remarkable people associated with the University of Melbourne, Flesch, Juliet and McPhee, Peter, 2003

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

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

### Resource Section

Jessie Webb Scholarship,  
<http://www.arts.unimelb.edu.au/currentstudents/scholarships/jesweb.html>

Jessie Webb Collection, 2006,  
<http://vm.arts.unimelb.edu.au/report/webb.html>

Webb, Jessie Stobo Watson (1880-1944), Fitzpatrick, Kathleen, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A120473b.htm>

### Book Section

Garden Parties and Politics : The Victorian Women's Graduate Association 1920-1945, Ruljancich, Sally, 2000

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### 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

### The University of Melbourne Archives

[Webb, Jessie Stobo Watson](#)

[Churchward, Lloyd Gordon](#)

[Haynes, Stanley Goddard](#)

[Ridley, Ronald Thomas](#)

[Webster, Mona](#)

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### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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