

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0655

Guérin, Julia Margaret (Bella)

(1858 - 1923)

Born 23 April, 1858, Williamstown Victoria Australia

Died 26 July, 1923, Norwood South Australia Australia

Occupation Feminist, Political activist, Teacher

Summary

Bella Guérin became the first woman to graduate from an Australian university when she was awarded her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Melbourne (number 255) in December 1883. She taught first at Loreto Convent, Ballarat then as lady principal of Ballarat School of Mines university classes, resigning upon marriage to Henry Halloran. A civil servant and poet, Halloran married Guérin on 28 June 1891 aged 80. Following his death Guérin married George D'Arcie Lavender.

Bella Guérin was politically active and a member of the suffrage movement. She became vice-president of the Women's Political Association in 1912, and later joined the Labor Party.

Events

1970 - 1970

Passed the University of Melbourne Matriculation Examination, passing in Latin, English, French, Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid and History

1970 - 1970

Awarded a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Melbourne (number 255)

1970 - 1970

Married 80 year old Henry Halloran (died 19 May 1893) at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, she bore him a son, Henry Marco.

2009 - 2009

Married George D'Arcie Lavender, 30 years her junior

1970 - 1903

Office-bearer with the Bendigo Women's Franchise League

1904 - 1917

Teacher at schools in Camperdown, South Yarra, St Kilda, Parkville and Brunswick

1912 - 1914

Vice-president of the Women's Political Association

1913 - 1913

Co-authored Vida Goldstein's Senate election pamphlet

1916 - 1916

Led the Labor Women's Anti-Conscription Fellowship campaign during the referendum

2018 - 2018

Appointed vice-president of the Labor Party's Women's Central Organizing Committee

Published resources

Book Section

Bella Guérin, M.A.: 'First Lady Graduate', Campbell, Dianne, 2000

Bella Lavender, Kelly, Farley

Resource Section

Guerin, Julia Margaret (1858 - 1923), Kelly, Farley, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090130b.htm>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Edited Book

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

Archival resources

The University of Melbourne Archives

[Guerin, Bella](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood

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