

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE0736

Victorian Woman's Suffrage League

(1894 - 1908)

Born 1 January, 1894, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Died 31 December, 1908, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Occupation Women's Rights Organisation

Summary

The Victorian Woman's Suffrage League was founded in 1894 at a meeting organised by Annette Bear Crawford in the Woman's Christian Temperance Union headquarters in Melbourne. Its platform was votes for women on the same terms as men. Its formation was prompted by the belief that the three existing groups working for women's suffrage in Victoria (the Australian Women's Suffrage Society, the Victorian Women's Suffrage Society and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union) were all associated with extremist views. Although initiated by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the League had an entirely separate existence, supposedly not linked to the prohibitionist agenda of the Union. The new League was formulated on a Christian, non-party basis. As such, it was an organisation that moderate women could comfortably join and was immediately popular. It ceased in 1908 with the granting of the vote to women in Victoria.

Details

Archival note:

As of 2003, it appears that there is no specific collection of papers relating to the League. However, its activities are documented in the annual reports of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Victoria and other Union records, Its activities were also extensively reported in the Melbourne press and women's journals, particularly, for the years 1900-1905, Vida Goldstein's *The Australian Woman's Sphere*.

Published resources

Book

Woman suffrage in Australia : a gift or a struggle?, Oldfield, Audrey, 1992

Votes for women : the Australian story, Lees, Kirsten., 1995

The Australian Woman's Sphere, 1900-1905

Thesis

The 'Woman Question' in Melbourne, 1880-1914, Kelly, Farley, 1983

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[\[Papers on women's suffrage / compiled by Rose Scott.\]?????????Papers on women's suffrage / compiled by Rose Scott.\]](#)

Author Details

Jane Carey

Created 11 February 2004

Last modified 4 May 2009