

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE3960

Workers' Educational Association of Queensland

(1913 - 1932)

Born 1 January, 1913, Brisbane Queensland Australia

Died 31 December, 1932, Brisbane Queensland Australia

Occupation Educational Association, Workers' Association

Summary

The Workers' Educational Association (W.E.A.) of Queensland was formed in Brisbane in 1913 after the visit of Albert Mansbridge, the founder of the Association in Great Britain. Its aim was to bring extra-mural university education to the working class. Of the first thirty-eight people that enrolled, fourteen of them were women, with feminist and socialist Emma Miller being one of them. Women soon outnumbered men in most of the classes, particularly those that were concerned with leisure activities.

The W.E.A. was disbanded by the state government in 1939 for allegedly supporting subversive activities, although its membership list indicates that most of the members were women who wanted to learn how to enhance their leisure time. Having said that, it did operate as a forum for the discussion and promotion of new ideas. For instance, Marion Piddington delivered a series of her innovative sex education lectures to the association in 1928.

Published resources

Edited Book

Women in Australia : an annotated guide to records, Daniels, Kay, Murnane, Mary, Picot, Anne and National Research Program (Australia), 1977

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection

[OM64-13 Workers Educational Association of Queensland Records 1913-1932](#)

Author Details

Nikki Henningham

Created 1 December 2008

Last modified 1 December 2008