

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4347

## Macdonald, Louisa

(1858 - 1949)

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**Born** 10 December, 1858, Arbroath Forfarshire Scotland

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**Died** 28 November, 1949, London England

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**Occupation** Educationist, Suffragist, Women's rights activist

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### Summary

Louisa Macdonald was the first Principal of the Women's College at the University of Sydney.

### Details

As Principal of the Women's College, Macdonald played an active role in university life. She was involved in the Sydney University Women's Association, which she helped found in 1892; the University Women's Society (University Settlement); and the Women's Club.

During the 1890s she was also active in the Womanhood Suffrage League of New South Wales and the Women's Literary Society.

In 1907 Macdonald was the first woman to stand for the University Senate, but was defeated.

### Events

#### 1970 - 1970

Bachelor of Arts with First Class Honours in classics, University of London

#### 1970 - 1970

Master of Arts, University of London

#### 1970 -

Worked as a private tutor, and as a researcher in classical antiquities at the British Museum.

#### 1970 - 1970

Moved to Australia to become the founding Principal of the Women's College, University of Sydney

#### 1970 - 1910

While Principal of Women's College, Macdonald continued to pursue her interest in classics, lecturing and cataloguing the Greek vases in the Nicholson Musuem of Antiquities.

#### 1914 - 1915

Vice-President of the Classical Association of New South Wales

#### 1919 - 1919

Returned to London, where she joined the council of the University of London

#### 1907 - 1907

First woman to stand for the University of Sydney Senate, but was defeated

## Published resources

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Miss Louisa Macdonald 1858-1949, The Women's College, 2009,  
<http://www.thewomenscollege.com.au/louisa.html>

### Resource Section

Macdonald, Louisa (1858-1949), Alexander, H., 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100245b.htm>

### Book

Letters from Louisa: A Woman's View of the 1890s, Based on the Letters of Louisa Macdonald, First Principal of the Women's College, University of Sydney, Beaumont, Jeanette and W. Vere Hole, 1996

The History of the Women's College within the University of Sydney, Hole, W. Vere and Anne H. Treweek, 1953

### Pamphlet

A mask / designed by Louisa Macdonald ; verses composed by C.J. Brennan and J. le Gay Brereton, Macdonald, Louisa, 1913

## Archival resources

### University of Sydney, Archives

[A mask/designed by L.M.](#)

[Archives of the Women's College, University of Sydney](#)

### State Library of New South Wales

[Letters by Louisa Macdonald, 1892-1898](#)

### Author Details

Isobelle Barrett Meyering

**Created** 24 September 2009

**Last modified** 26 February 2019