

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0151

## Hughes, Agnes Eva

(1856 - 1940)

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**Born** 1 January, 1856, South Yarra Victoria Australia

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**Died** 10 June, 1940, St Kilda Victoria Australia

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**Occupation** Charity worker, Political activist

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### Summary

Eva Hughes was a prominent figure in women's groups as well as charitable and patriotic organisations in Melbourne from the early 1900s. She became second president of the influential, politically conservative, anti-socialist group the Australian Women's National League (1909-1922), after the death of her sister Janet Lady Clarke.

During the First World War she encouraged war-work and became a member of the Australian League of Honour, the Lady Mayoress's Patriotic Fund and the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives and Mothers. She supported the government's conscription campaign, and garner support through her presidency of the Australian Women's National League. On 4 October 1918 Eva Hughes was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) (OBE) for services as president of the League. Following her retirement as president, Hughes continued to act as an adviser, and was made a life patroness and a life member of the League's council.

### Events

#### 2014 - 2018

Member of the Lady Mayoress's Patriotic Fund

#### 2014 - 2018

Member of the Friendly Union of Soldiers' Wives and Mothers

#### 2016 - 2016

Formally presented to the minister for defence, (Sir) George Pearce, a ward of 36 beds in Caulfield Military Hospital

#### 2018 - 2018

Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire

#### 2004 - 2004

Chaired first general meeting of the Australian Women's National League, and later organized the St Kilda branch

#### 2009 - 1922

State president of the Australian Women's National League

#### 2014 - 2018

Encouraged league members in war-work

#### 2014 - 2018

Member of the Australian League of Honour

## Published resources

### **Edited Book**

Double Time: Women in Victoria - 150 Years, Lake, Marilyn and Kelly, Farley, 1985

Monash Biographical Dictionary of 20th Century Australia, Arnold, John and Morris, Deirdre, 1994

### **Book**

Nation builders : great lives and stories from St Kilda General Cemetery, Eidelson, Meyer, 2001

Liberal women : Federation to 1949, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2004

History of the Australian Women's National League

Women of influence: the first fifty years of women in the Liberal Party, Sydenham, Diane, 1996

### **Journal**

The Woman, The Australian Women's National League, 1907-1934

### **Book Section**

Australian Women's National League, Smart, Judith, 1998

Eva Hughes: Militant Conservative, Smart, Judith, 1985

### **Resource Section**

Hughes, Agnes Eva (1856-1940), Smart, Judith, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A090389b.htm>

### **Site Exhibition**

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Author Details**

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