

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0298

## Cocks, Fanny Kate Boadicea

(1875 - 1954)

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**Born** 5 May, 1875, Moonta South Australia Australia

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**Died** 20 August, 1954

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**Occupation** Policewoman, Welfare worker

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### Summary

Fanny Kate Boadicea Cocks was appointed as a Member of the Order of the British Empire (Civil) on 3 June 1935 for her role as 'Principal of the Women's Police' in South Australia. According to the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Cocks began her career as a schoolmistress and sub-matron before entering the State Children's Council (South Australia) and being appointed as the State's first probation officer for juvenile first offenders. In 1915 Cocks became South Australia's first woman police constable. She was concerned with issues such as adolescent sexuality and alcoholism, prostitution, domestic violence and self-defence. Her care for homeless girls led to her involvement in the Methodist Women's Welfare Department as a volunteer superintendent for fifteen years after her retirement in 1935. She made a bequest to the Methodist home for babies, which was later re-named the Kate Cocks Babies Home.

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Cocks, Fanny Kate Boadicea (1875-1954), Mune, Marie, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080050b.htm>

#### Edited Book

S.A.'s greats: the men and women of the North Terrace plaques, Healey, John, 2001

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

#### Book

Miss Kate Cocks, her life and work, Shapley, George William, 1964

Everybody's friend : the inspiring career of Kate Cocks, M.B.E., Abbott, E. S, 1939

To walk a fair beat : a history of the South Australian women police 1915-1987, Higgs, Patricia, 1987

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### 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>

### Archival resources

#### National Library of Australia

[Biographical cuttings on Kate Cocks, former founder of the SA Women Police and also founder of the Kate Cocks Babies' Home at Hove, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

**Author Details**

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