

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: PR00211

Ogg, Margaret Ann

(1863 - 1953)

Born 3 August, 1863, Brisbane Queensland Australia

Died 19 May, 1953, Clayfield Brisbane Queensland Australia

Occupation Electoral reformer, Feminist, Journalist, Musician, Poet, Writer

Summary

Margaret Ogg is best known for her extensive political, social and feminist activities. Additionally she was a poet, writer and an accomplished musician, playing viola in the family quartet, as well as holding membership with the Musical Association. A staunch monarchist and anti-socialist, Ogg actively toured outback townships in Queensland promoting women's suffrage, and encouraging pioneer women to become involved in state and national affairs. As founder, co-founder and member of many Queensland women's organisations, she was consistently at the forefront of political and social campaigns to secure reforms for the Queensland's women and children. Ogg remained an active member of the Brisbane political and cultural scene up until her death.

Details

Margaret Ogg was born in the manse of the Presbyterian Church, Anne Street Brisbane to Charles Ogg, Presbyterian minister and his wife Agnes, née McKellar. She was one of ten children and first attended school in South Brisbane. Later Margaret attended the Brisbane Girls' Grammar School where she became proficient in languages. For a number of years she was editor of the women's section of the *United Grazier*, a New South Wales publication for country folk. She wrote under the pseudonym "Ann Dante" (Andante). Ogg loved wildflowers and as a result of outings to the Daffodil Farm at Sunnybank and many picnics to Mt Gravatt, St. John's Wood and Petrie, she wrote the poem titled "Out in the Bush". She was active in Brisbane literary circles and also sub-edited the *Presbyterian Austral Star*.

Miss Ogg joined the Women's Christian Temperance League in 1886 when it established a Queensland Branch of the organisation. Primarily concerned with controlling alcohol abuse in the State, the League's broader agenda was the welfare of women and children, as well as women's voting rights. In 1891 Margaret helped the Women's Christian Temperance Union form a Colonial Suffrage Department but stressed their non-political involvement. Through the Women's Christian Temperance Union she was instrumental in setting up the Mission to Seamen. Ogg in 1903 became a founding member and secretary for the Queensland Women's Electoral League (QWEL), a position she held for 30 years. The QWEL campaigned for such things as equal pay, the establishment of bush nursing homes, and a chair of domestic science. They also lobbied the Premier to raise the age of consent to 17. Upon Margaret Ogg's death in 1953 the QWEL honoured her by creating a fund to assist women candidates into public office.

Margaret co-founded the Brisbane Women's Progressive Club in 1908 which changed its name to the Brisbane Women's Club in 1912. At a meeting in 1909 Miss Ogg raised the following points of interest: (a) equal divorce laws; (b) equal pay for equal work for men and women; (c) making seduction a criminal offence; and (d) a deputation to be sent to the Minister for Education to ask that Domestic Science be a compulsory subject for girls in state schools. The Brisbane Women's Club established a scholastic bursary in memory of Margaret Ogg, and continues to award bursaries to music students at the conservatorium.

On Friday 2 May 1919, Ogg presided at a meeting of the Brisbane members of the London Lyceum Club to discuss founding a Queensland Branch of the Club. That evening a general committee was formed with nominated members assigned to draw up a constitution and rules. Margaret Ogg was elected President and May Paten Honorary Secretary. At various stages of her life she was the only woman executive-member of the National Political Council, organising secretary of the women's central committee of the Queensland Deaf and Dumb Mission, and co-founder of the Queensland Bush Club. Her advice and organisational ability assisted Irene Longman into parliament in 1929. Through persistently lobbying the State government, Ogg was instrumental in having the *Criminal Code Amendment Act 1913* passed, as well as the *Testators' Family Maintenance Act 1914* through which widows were entitled to a proportion of the husband's estate.

Margaret Ogg was multitalented, intellectual, community minded, indomitable, and quick witted. Shortly before her death, in a letter dated 28 October 1946, Miss Ogg wrote:

"No woman can do more than her little bit – often falling far short of intention, but it has been my privilege to have as co-workers some of the finest women in Queensland, and the success and development which attended our efforts was, and is due to their loyalty and self-sacrifice, without which no sure foundation can be laid".

Published resources

Resource

Early Days of Brisbane Lyceum, Mittelheuser, Dr Cathryn AM, 2006,
<http://www.lyceumbrisbane.org.au/History.htm>

Margaret Ogg, Brisbane Memories, 2006,
http://eresearch.griffith.edu.au/brisbanememories/index.php/Margaret_Ogg

Lyceum Club Brisbane Incorporated, Lyceum Club Brisbane Incorporated, 2006,
<http://www.lyceumbrisbane.org.au/>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section

Ogg, Margaret Ann (1863 - 1953), Crouchley, Betty, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A110073b.htm>

Newspaper Article

Queenslander 17 November, 1927

Newspaper

Courier Mail 20 May 1953, 1953

Site Exhibition

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Archival resources

John Oxley Library, Manuscripts and Business Records Collection

[R 1694 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc Records](#)

[TR 2080 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc. Records 1998-2000](#)

[R 1453 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc. Records](#)

[R 1229 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc. Newsletter](#)

[R 1600 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc Records 1995-1996??R 1600 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc Records 1995-1996??R 1600 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc Records 1995-1996](#)

[R 1218 Lyceum Club Brisbane Inc. Records 1931-1994; 2013](#)

[Margaret Ann Ogg and Williamina Anderson Ogg](#)

[Margaret Ogg and Ernest Briggs at the Brisbane residence, Dunrobin](#)

[Margaret Ogg Fund: List of names for appeal letters: 1953](#)

[Margaret Ogg, pioneering campaigner for women's rights : \[suffragette movement in Queensland\]](#)

[OM83-01 Ogg, Margaret Ann Manuscript 1824-1962](#)

[28405 Brisbane Women's Club Records 1908-2013](#)

Author Details

Lee Butterworth

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