

Petition for use of Town Hall for Womens Franchise Meeting

Prayer

Bendigo 2nd July 1894

To His Worship the Mayor of Bendigo

Dear Sir,

We the undersigned ratepayers beg to request that you will be pleased to convene a public meeting to be held in the Town Hall Bendigo on Monday 23rd July for the purpose of considering the advisability of extending the franchise to women; and if you cannot convene the said meeting that you will permit the Town Hall to be used for that purpose on the date mentioned and will preside at the same.

We are yours respectfully

Notes

2 July 1894- Meeting about Women's Franchise.

This Petition, signed by 21 local men and women, is historically significant for two reasons.

a. The Prayer is handwritten by local identity Dr. John Quick (1852-1932), the man who had the year before attended the important Corowa Conference, where his well-received motion led to the calling of the Federal Convention with delegates elected from each colony; together, they wrote the Australian Constitution. Quick went on to be one of the ten Victorian delegates, who attended the Convention's sittings held in 1897-1898. This Bendigonian was knighted in 1901, specifically for his many contributions to our Commonwealth's creation. (See Maslunka, M., 'Sir John Quick' **Australian Dictionary of Biography**, 1988, vol. 11, pp. 316-317; Matthews, M.S., 'A Forgotten Father of Federation 1852-1911', **M.A thesis**, 2003.)

b. The fact this Petition was written in July 1894 means it predates (by five months) the South Australian Parliament's granting of the suffrage to its female residents; South Australia was the first colony to do so. This local petition is therefore evidence of grassroots feeling in support of Women's suffrage in Bendigo, then a regional Victorian city.

The requested meeting did take place on 23 July, at the Bendigo Town Hall. The speakers were the Mayor, D.B.Lazarus MLA, Dr. Quick, Mr.A.S. Bailes, Rev. Rofe and Mrs. MacGillivray. (Mackay, G (ed.), **Annals of Bendigo**, 1916, vol. 3, p. 256.)

Page	Column	Title	Surname	First name	Address	Occupation
1	1		Andrew	Charles	Wattle St., Bendigo	
1	1		Howarth	Enoch	Quarry Hill	
1	1		Edwards	J. B.	3 Pall Mall, Bendigo	
1	1		Campbell	W.J.		
1	1		Scott	J. A. C.	Hargreaves St., Bendigo	
1	2		Quick	John	Quarry Hill	

Page	Column	Title	Surname	First name	Address	Occupation
1	2		Andrews	James A.	Hargreaves St., Bendigo	
1	2		Perry	Charles	Don St., Bendigo	
1	2		Cook	Joyce		
1	2		Hyett	Sabina F.	Wills St., Bendigo	
1	2		MacGillivray	P. H.		
1	2		Harcourt	J. M.		
1	2		Budds ?	G.		
1	2		Thomas	Jas.	Wills St., Bendigo	
1	2		Trengove	R. B.	King St., Bendigo	
1	2		Roberts	John		
1	2		Stewart	J. S.		
1	2		Read	J. Hood	Olinda St.,	
1	2		Watts	Edward H		
1	2		Taylor	James		
1	2		Hoskins	J. R.		

Bendigo
2nd July 1894

To His Worship the Mayor of Bendigo
Dear Sir

We the undersigned subscribers beg to request that you
will be pleased to convene a public meeting to be held
in the Town Hall Bendigo on Monday 23rd July for the
purpose of considering the expediency of proposing extending
the franchise to women; and if you cannot convene the
said meeting that you will permit the Town Hall to be
used for the purpose on the date mentioned, and will
preside at the same.

We are yours respectfully

✓ Charles Andrew Watt St John Leitch Quarry Hill
✓ Enock Brown the quarry mill James A. Andrews
✓ J. Edwards. 3 Ball Mall Hargreaves St.
✓ W. Campbell
✓ J. A. C. Scott Hargreaves St. Charles Perry Don Street
Joyce Cook
Robina L. Begg
Wills St
✓ P. H. MacGillivray
✓ J. M. Harcourt
✓ E. Briggs
✓ J. Thomas Wills St
✓ W. Chengue King St
✓ John Roberts
✓ J. S. Stewart
✓ Woodhead
Clinda Street
✓ Edward H. Watts
James Taylor
✓ L. B. Hoskins

2. 7. 94

Petition

for use of above
hall for Home
branches meeting

No