

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0141

## Young, Jeanne Forster

(1876 - 1955)

<b>Born</b>	1 January, 1876, Unley South Australia Australia
<b>Died</b>	31 December, 1955
<b>Occupation</b>	Author, Journalist, Political activist, Welfare worker

### Summary

A novelist, biographer and political candidate, Jeanne Forster Young passionately advocated proportional representation for women in parliament. She became president of the Democratic Women's Association of South Australia.

### Details

Jeanne Young was born Sarah Jane Forster, one of eight children of John Goodman and Sarah Jane Forster. She became a freelance journalist with the *Register* and joined Catherine Helen Spence in 1896 in campaigning for proportional representation in parliament. On 23 January 1889, she married the Foreign Editor of the South Australian *Advertiser*, Alfred Howard Young. They were to have three sons and one daughter.

Jeanne Young was the first and only woman on the Board of Governors of the South Australian Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery (1916-1928). She was appointed to the Magistracy in 1917 and stood for parliament on a non-party ticket in 1918. During the First World War, Young was a member of the Central Red Cross and later became an administrator of the South Australian Soldiers' Fund. She stood for the Senate in 1937 and was elected president of the Democratic Women's Association of South Australia.

After the death of Catherine Helen Spence in 1910, Young completed Spence's autobiography. She founded the C H Spence Scholarship for Women, and in 1937 wrote *Catherine Helen Spence: a study and an appreciation*.

Young produced several pamphlets on proportional representation, and wrote variously under the pen names of Jeanne F. Young, Sarah Jane Forster and Goodman Forster. On 9 June 1938, Jeanne Young was appointed to The Order of the British Empire – Officer (Civil) (OBE) for her services to social welfare. She died at Rose Park, South Australia in 1955.

In 1994, as part of celebrations for the South Australian Women's Suffrage Centenary, the centenary committee published Jeanne Forster Young's novel, *Jenifer*.

## Published resources

### Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1944, Alexander, Joseph A, 1944

### Book

An autobiography, Spence, Catherine Helen [edited and introduced by Jeanne F. Young], 1975

Catherine Helen Spence : a study and an appreciation, Young, Jeanne F, 1937

Jenifer : a novel / by Goodman Forster (Jeanne Forster Young 1876-1955), Young, Jeanne Forster, [1994]

Proportional representation in a nutshell, Young, Jeanne F, [1945]

Proportional representation : what it means and how it would work, Young, Jeanne F, 1931

Preferential voting in single electorates not a reform, Young, Jeanne F, [1920]

The Senate - as it is and as it should be : a plea for proportional representation, Young, Jeanne F, 1917

Effective voting : an explanation of Hare's single transferable vote, Young, Jeanne F, [1917]

Effective voting; how to vote, how to count votes! : diagrams showing inequalities and injustice of single electorates and block votes, Young, Jeanne F, 1911

Proportional representation, Young, Jeanne F, [1911]

### Site Exhibition

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

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

## Archival resources

### State Library of South Australia

[Jenifer \(literary manuscript\)](#)

[The Grand Old Woman of Australia \(literary manuscript\)](#)

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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