

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Organisation

Entry ID: AWE4314

Women's College within The University of Sydney

(1892 -)

Born 1 January, 1892, Newtown New South Wales Australia

Occupation Educational institution

Summary

Established in 1892, The Women's College within the University of Sydney was the first residential university college for women in Australia and has been in continuous use as a university college for women for well over a century. From modest and financially challenging beginnings, it developed into (and remains) a flourishing institution, particularly after 1916 when it finally received equivalent financial endowment to that of the male colleges.

The College's first home was a rented house in Glebe. It moved to its own building within the University grounds in May 1894. Designed by the architectural firm of Sulman & Power, the College's first permanent home still forms the heart of the present building complex and is heritage listed. In 2009 the College accommodates 250 women undergraduates and 30 postgraduates. It is a progressive organisation that is proud of its tradition of being at the forefront of education and social theory and championing women's rights, academic thought and leadership.

Published resources

Book

The History of the Women's College within the University of Sydney, Hole, W. Vere and Anne H. Treweeke, 1953

Letters from Louisa: A Woman's View of the 1890s, Based on the Letters of Louisa Macdonald, First Principal of the Women's College, University of Sydney, Beaumont, Jeanette and W. Vere Hole, 1996

Pamphlet

A mask / designed by Louisa Macdonald ; verses composed by C.J. Brennan and J. le Gay Brereton, Macdonald, Louisa, 1913

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

[Archives of the Women's College, University of Sydney](#)

University of Sydney, Archives

[A mask/designed by L.M.](#)

[Marie Coutts Clark - Records](#)

State Library of New South Wales

[The Women's College, University of Sydney](#)

[Letters by Louisa Macdonald, 1892-1898](#)

Author Details

Nikki Henningham

Created 10 September 2009

Last modified 16 May 2019