

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE2897

## Fotheringhame, Pattie

(1852 - 1955)

<b>Born</b>	1 January, 1852, Scotland
<b>Died</b>	31 December, 1955, Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Editor, Journalist, Newspaper Proprietor, Print journalist

### Summary

Pattie Fotheringhame was Sydney's first female journalist and the pioneer of photo-engraving in Sydney. She was 'discovered' by her brother-in-law, W.H Traill, editor of the *Sydney Mail*, in 1878 when he heard her telling a story to a group of children. He learned that the story was her own creation and so employed Fotheringhame to write a weekly piece for the paper. Following Traill to the *Bulletin* she wrote the Woman's Letter as 'Mab' for almost seven years until she married James Fotheringhame.

Fotheringhame bought *Young Australia* from Louisa Lawson and she continued it for thirty years with her sister-in-law Josephine Fotheringhame. She also owned the weekly *Splashes*, and edited the monthly paper *The Sphere* for six years. She also contributed lighter pieces to *The Soldier* and *The Commonwealth Home*. At her busiest, she was writing for six newspapers simultaneously

### Events

**1970 - 1920**

### Published resources

#### 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>

#### Resource

AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource, 2002, <http://www.austlit.edu.au/>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Author Details

Nikki Henningham

**Created** 4 December 2007  
**Last modified** 16 September 2013