

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0453

Marfell, Helena Catherine

(1898 - 1981)

Born	4 August, 1898, Camperdown Victoria Australia
Died	2 November, 1981, Geelong Victoria Australia
Occupation	Community worker

Summary

Helena Marfell was the inaugural national president of the Country Women's Association of Australia in 1945.

Details

Marfell was a foundation member of the Warrnambool branch of the Country Women's Association (1931), and twice president of the South-Western Group. She was also a member of the Victorian State Executive, and state president from 1942 until 1945. President of the Women's Section of the Victorian Country Party, Marfell stood unsuccessfully for the federal seat of Wannon during the election in 1949.

During World War II Marfell was senior superintendent of the Warrnambool district for the Red Cross Society. She donated a silver teapot for use when the Country Women's Association served refreshments at the railway tea rooms to recruits leaving Warrnambool.

On 1 January 1968 Helena Marfell was appointed an Officer to the Order of the British Empire (Civil) for services to social welfare. She was honoured by being made a Life Governor of the Warrnambool Base Hospital and the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind.

Events

1970 - 1970

Born daughter of Archibald Glen

1949 - 1950

President of the Women's Section at the Victorian Country Party

1942 - 1945

President of the South-Western Group of the Country Women's Association

1942 - 1945

State President of the Country Women's Association

1945 - 1946

National President of the Country Women's Association

1946 - 1946

Member of the Corangamite Regional Committee

1943 - 1943

Member of the State Relief Committee

1943 - 1943

Member of the State Broadcasting Committee

1939 - 1945

Senior Superintendent of the Red Cross in the Warrnambool district

1938 - 1939

President of the South-Western Group of the Country Women's Association

1949 - 1949

Country Party candidate for the electorate of Wannon at the Federal election

2018 - 2018

Married Henry G Marfell, they had two children

1931 - 1931

Helped found the Warrnambool Branch of the Country Women's Association

2068 - 2068

Appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1962, Alexander, Joseph A, 1962

Who's Who in Australia 1950, Alexander, Joseph A, 1950

Book

The Many Hats of Country Women: The Jubilee History of the Country Women's Association of Australia, Stevens-Chambers, Brenda, 1997

Site Exhibition

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>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Records of the Country Women's Association of Australia, 1945-1969, 2003 \[manuscript\]](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood

Created 6 March 2003

Last modified 8 March 2019