

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0665

Walker, Ellinor Gertrude

(1893 - 1990)

Born	1 January, 1893, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Died	7 November, 1990, Adelaide South Australia Australia
Occupation	Educator, Poet, Women's rights activist

Summary

Daughter of Arthur Walker and his wife Frances (née Sinclair), Ellinor Walker was born in Melbourne, Victoria and moved to Adelaide, South Australia when she was nine years old. She attended the Wilderness School, and was awarded the Tennyson Medal for English at the age of fifteen. Walker graduated as a kindergarten teacher, and spent two years as Director of the Halifax St Free Kindergarten. She then opened the Greenways School at her family home in Fullarton, and directed this for 24 years. At the age of eighteen she and a friend formed a Girls' Club to study political matters, and this led to her joining, at the age of 21, the Non-Party Association. She was an active member of this for 65 years, and when (as the League of Women Voters, which it had become) it voluntarily ended in 1979, she gave the valedictory speech. She was a passionate supporter of the League of Nations and the movement to maintain world peace. In 1940, with the help of Roma Mitchell (later Governor of South Australia) she drew up the Bill which became the Guardianship of Infants Act, No. 55 (1940), giving mothers equal rights with fathers over their children. In 1962 and 1963 she organised an Australia-wide campaign which resulted in recognition of the needs of civilian widows with dependent children. She was a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU). In 1964 she helped form the Local Government Women's Association, and in 1971 was president of the Women's Christian Temperance League, of which she had been a member since 1935. Walker wrote several historical pageants and she also wrote a monologue, 'The Story of the Franchise: How Women Won the Vote in SA' (1944) for the Golden Jubilee of Women's Suffrage. Her poem 'Lullaby' was set to music by Ruby R McCulloch, and is held in the Mortlock Library. Ellinor Walker was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire on 12 June 1971 for her service to the community.

Published resources

Resource

South Australian Creative Writers - Women Writers, State Library of South Australia and Flinders University, http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/writers/detau.CFM?People_PeopleID=146

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book

In her own name : women in South Australian history, Jones, Helen, 1926-, 1986

Fresh evidence, new witnesses : finding women's history, Allen, Margaret (Margaret Ellen), 1947- ; Hutchison, Mary and Mackinnon, Alison, 1942-, 1989

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

Ellinor Gertrude Walker : SUMMARY RECORD

Interview with Ellinor Walker [sound recording] Interviewer: Anne Geddes

Radio interview with Ellinor Walker [sound recording] Interviewer: Janet Robertson

Autobiographical notes

Citation for Life Membership

Copyright certificates

Interview with Ellinor Gertrude Walker [sound recording] Interviewer: Mary Hutchison

Interview with Ellinor Gertrude Walker [sound recording] Interviewer: Beth M. Robertson

Juvenile writings

Letters, invitation and postcards

List of holidays

Musical scores

Newspaper cutting

Obituaries

Papers relating to Pageants

Photographs

Play scripts for performance

Poetry

Typescripts of Ellinor Walker

Girls Social & Political Union : SUMMARY RECORD

Author Details

Robin Secomb

Created 27 January 2004

Last modified 16 September 2013