



Appendix

WARRNAMBOOL'S INJUSTICE TO ITS WOMEN PIONEERS

Article by Bruce Morris, *Warrnambool Standard*, 2 August 1978

Warrnambool has never done justice to the women who shared with their menfolk the hardships of the pioneering days.

The 204 photographs on the pioneers' pictorial honour board are all men, yet nearly all of these men had wives. Women may draw some consolation from this – a woman artist, Lillian Foyle, was responsible for the coloring of the portraits and her name is recorded on the board. It is likely also that Lillian Foyle chose the scenic illustrations and she may have painted three of these.

But now that Warrnambool is becoming so heritage-minded, isn't the time appropriate to give the women their merited recognition? As far as I know, no one has listed the women who made an impact on the young Warrnambool community. For 120 years or so we have had a woman matron of the hospital. From the beginning we have had women teachers in our schools. The sisters at the convent have for over 100 years played a leading role in education. Dorcas and Mary Jellie, teachers at Jamieson Street, set a record which I think is unparalleled in the district. The late Miss Essie Uebergang was 50 years or more organist of the Baptist Church. Dr Isabella Younger-Ross is still

remembered for her leadership in infant welfare. From the earliest years women were to the fore in music and teaching. The name of Mona Wilton will always be revered among nurses.

This list has been drawn up without any research and aims to set interested men and women thinking of other men and women whose service present and future generations should not be allowed to forget. Students at the Warrnambool Institute and research-minded members of the Warrnambool Historical Society could be on the lookout for women who should not be forgotten. With the revival of interest in cottage crafts, has anyone thought of studying the history of women's crafts in the Warrnambool area? What contribution did women make to the history of the Port of Warrnambool? Would women's interests warrant separate recognition at Flagstaff Hill? Would a women's corner be in place at *Murweb*? Could the Country Women's Association branch find for itself a niche in the study of local women's contribution to our heritage? Have the several long-standing women's organizations delved adequately into their own past?

The tide is turning. Apart from St Ann's College we have not yet had a woman head of larger schools but we have women vice-principals. We have had a woman acting head of the Teacher Education Faculty at the Warrnambool Institute, and Warrnambool Chamber of Commerce now has its first woman president. But, although Warrnambool has had three women councillors, it has never had a woman mayor. And Warrnambool Shire has never had a woman councillor.

The present, the past and the future are inseparably inter-twined. More recognition of what women did for the making of Warrnambool and greater realization of what they are doing for the Warrnambool of today will help toward women being given their justified place in the Warrnambool of the future. BBM.

