



The Federal Redistribution 2003
QUEENSLAND



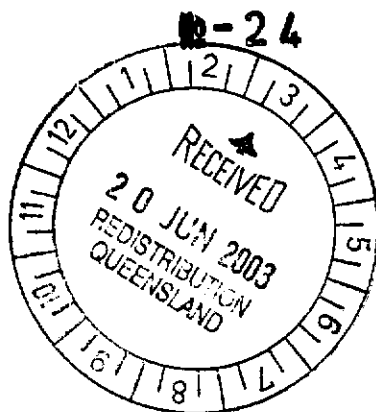
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SUGGESTION

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Redistribution Queensland – New Electorate Name – “Miller”

An analysis of the names and associated data for the current Federal Divisions reveals the following information:

Electorates named after males	106	70.6%
Electorates named after females	16	10.7%
Electorates named after places	28	18.7%

Criteria	Number	Criteria	Number	Criteria	Number
politician	57	grazier	2	CWA leader	1
explorer	19	engineer	2	boxer	1
indigenous	15	social worker	2	royal	1
governor	12	architect	1	surveyor	1
arts	6	botanist	1	teacher	1
armed forces	3	bureaucrat	1	unionist	1
aristocrat	3	councillor	1		
aviator	2	criminal	1		

It is obvious there is a severe under-representation of females and I would argue that there is an over-representation of politicians. I request that less emphasis be placed on the consideration of naming a new electorate after a former Prime Minister and more emphasis be placed on correcting the gender imbalance. This change in emphasis should be maintained for the foreseeable future.

The year 2003, and particularly 16 December 2003, should be celebrated by all Australians as the one hundredth anniversary of the event of Australia being the first country in the world in which women were able to exercise their right to vote in a national election. Although women in New Zealand were able to vote that country did not become a self-governing dominion until 1907.

As one way of celebrating the anniversary and to commence the correction of the gender imbalance I am suggesting that the new electorate in Queensland be named “Miller”, after Emma Miller who was an effective but under-acknowledged suffragist active in Queensland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It is most unfortunate that Emma Miller remains under-acknowledged to date.

Emma Miller was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire (UK) on 26 June 1839 and came to Brisbane at the age of thirty-nine where she began work as a gentlemen's shirt maker. She became heavily involved in worker's rights, women's rights, the suffragist movement and the anti-conscription movement around the time of the First World War. Emma Miller died on 22 January 1917.

It could be argued that without the leadership and commitment of Emma Miller that Australia would not have led the world with the important principle of democracy – one person, one vote.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT SENT 20/6/03

Emma Miller was a foundation member of the Labor Party, President of the Women's Equal Franchise Association (1894 - 1905) the period of its existence, an active participant in the Early Closing Association, aided the formation of the first women's union (Brisbane), as a seamstress she gave evidence at the 1891 Royal Commission into Shops, Factories and Workshops. She was the first woman to undertake an organising tour of Western Queensland under the auspices of the AWU and although she supported William Lane and the Shearers' strike, she opposed his leaving to form a Utopian settlement in Paraguay. Her action during the 1912 strike at the age of 73, of thrusting her hatpin into the Police Commissioners horse became legendary, although her family maintained that she actually dug it into the Police Commissioner.

She was an anti-militarist, becoming involved in the 1914-18 anti-conscription struggles until her death in 1917 at the age of 77. She was respected for her courage in one so frail and for her staunch advocacy of labour principles.

Born in England at the time of the Industrial Revolution and the reign of Queen Victoria - 1839 - Emma was influenced by her father to be a rebel by participating with him in Chartist activities. A creed she then learnt - The world is my country: to do good is my religion - was the one by which she lived her life. She married three times and had four children and migrated to Queensland with her second husband in 1879.

In spite of this activity, Emma Miller rarely gets a mention in history books of the period and books on women's history to date deal with NSW and Victoria. Queensland people are quite unaware that a suffrage campaign was waged in this State or when women first voted in Federal and State Elections.

She saw Australian women vote in 1902, the first women in the world to be able to vote in a Federal election.

Australian Trade Union Archives

<http://www.atua.org.au/biogs/ALE1200b.htm>

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Miller, Emma (1839 - 1917)

Born: 1839 England. Died: 1917.

Emma Miller came to Brisbane at the age of thirty-nine where she began work as a gentlemen's shirt maker. She became involved in union work, with her involvement coinciding with the growth of the trade union movement in Queensland.

In 1891, she gave evidence to a Royal Commission about tailoring and shirtmaking factories and workshops, exposing them as 'sweatshops'. She also campaigned for equal pay and equal opportunity for women and became foundation president of the Women's Equal Franchise Association which pressured governments for "one woman, one vote".

Ms Miller and her comrades had a win when Australian women were granted the vote in 1902, becoming the first women in the world to vote in a national election. But individual states had not yet granted the vote for women and the Queensland campaign - with Ms Miller at the helm - continued until they achieved their goal in 1907.

Although a tiny, frail-looking woman, Ms Miller was in the front line of any strikes during this time and when she was seventy-three she performed an act for which she will always be remembered.

On the 2nd February 1912, during a general strike for the right to trade unionism, Ms Miller led a contingent of women to march on Brisbane's Parliament House. But the women's path was blocked by a wall of police brandishing bayonets and rifles; some on foot, some on horseback. The police charged at the women, who were forced to defend themselves with their umbrellas and hatpins. Emma dug her hatpin into the horse of Police Commissioner Cahill, who was thrown from his mount and later walked with a limp. (Commissioner Cahill bore no grudge - he was unofficially on the side of the anti-conscriptionists in 1916: Young p. 222).

When Emma died from cancer on the 22nd January 22, several newspapers ran obituaries, the flag at Brisbane's Trades Hall flew at half mast and unions and women's groups from all over Australia sent condolences and tributes.

Australia's Prime Ministers

<http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/whoswho.asp?txtKeyword=Emma+Miller&searchType=keyword>

Emma Miller

An organiser for the Australian Workers Union in western Queensland in the 1890s and the first woman member of the Brisbane Workers Political Organisation, Miller championed equal pay and equal opportunity for women and was foundation president of the Women's Equal Franchise Association (1894-1905). In 1908 she was a delegate to the federal Labor Party conference, and in 1916 a delegate to the Australian Peace Alliance conference. In her late seventies Miller campaigned against the conscription referendums in 1916-17.

Bibliography

Young, P. (1991). *Proud to be a rebel: the life and times of Emma Miller*. Brisbane: University of Queensland Press.

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<http://www.thecouriermail.com.au/extras/federation/CMFedMiller.htm>

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<http://www.qcu.asn.au/195.html>

<http://primeministers.naa.gov.au/whoswho.asp?txtKeyword=Emma+Miller&searchType=keyword>

<http://www.atua.org.au/biogs/ALE1200b.htm>

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