



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

NAME OF COLLECTION	FEMALE CONFECTIONERS' UNION
ACCESSION NO	A.1988.0155
CATEGORY ACTIVITY	Labour, organisations Trade Unions
DATE RANGE	1916-1945
SIZE OF COLLECTION	48 cms. (4 archives boxes); plus photographs Publication
HISTORICAL NOTE	Established in 1916, despite the opposition of the Victorian Confectioners' Union, the Female Confectioners pioneered recognition of the problems and rights of women in industry. It amalgamated with the Federated Confectioners' Union in 1945.
DATE OF TRANSFER	
ACCESS CONDITIONS	Access: Open
DESCRIPTION	Federal Executive minutes 1918-1938; Victorian-Tasmanian Branch minutes 1918-1945; Victorian sub-branch minutes 1916-1945; copies of the "Women's Clarion", 1921-1927; pamphlets; photographs.
NOTE ON COLLECTIONS	
NOTE ON LISTING	
LISTED BY DATE	Maryanne McCubbin 10 April 1987

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE ARCHIVES

LIST: FEMALE CONFECTIONERS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA
VICTORIAN - TASMANIAN SUB-BRANCH

(See also: Federated Confectioners' Union of Australia)

Historical Note:

The Female Confectioners' Union of Australia Victorian-Tasmanian sub-branch was formed under the leadership of Margaret Wearne in 1916, and registered in 1918. Its formation resulted from a break with the male dominated Female Confectioners' Union formed several years earlier, which had originally been formed as a breakaway from the Federated Confectioners' Union.

Most of the membership was employed at the massive MacRobertson's Confectionery Works in Gore Street, Fitzroy, which by the turn of the century was 95% unionized. MacPherson Robertson, the firm's founder, implemented work processes based upon Frederick Taylor's theories of scientific management at the turn of this century. This saw a consequent degradation of confectionery work, and unskilled women and juveniles came to constitute the majority of the workforce. The Female Confectioners' Union campaigned for improvements in conditions, and particularly in hours and wages, in those areas of confectionery making that predominantly employed women.

After years of vitriolic resistance, the Female Confectioners' Union amalgamated with the Federated Confectioners' Union in 1945, after the latter had succeeded in enrolling women members in Cadbury-Schwepes factory in Tasmania. (See Federated Confectioners' Union archive for documentation on amalgamation).

Location: BS 4/2/8. Photographs in Barry Street liftwell

Size: Four archives boxes, plus photographs

Access: Open

Nb: For further information on conditions of female labour at MacRobertson's, also see Young Communist League MacRobertson's Unit newsletters, 1935-38, held at the Archives.

FEMALE CONFECTIONERS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA

(See also: Federated Confectioners' Union of Australia)

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 - 4/1 General
 - 4/2 Special war-time deputations/requests/special conditions of work
5. The Woman's Clarion
6. Photographs (Includes those of Federated Confectioners' Union)

FEMALE CONFECTIONERS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA

BOX NO.

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- 1 FEMALE CONFECTIONERS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA
- 1 REGISTRATION
- 1/1 Correspondence regarding the application for the registration of the Female Confectioners' Union of Australia, and correspondence regarding the de-registration of the Female Confectioners' Union (See historical note) 12 November 1912-25. February 1920
- 1/2 Application for the registration of an Association called the "Female Confectioners' Union of Australia" as an organisation of employees under the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-1915. 13 August 1918.
- 2 MINUTES
(NB Generally includes Union's constitution, rules, claims, awards/agreements, and secretary's report)
- 2/1 Federal Council (Also see 2/3/3)
- 2/1/1 Minute Book. 24 June 1918-1 September 1933
- 2/2 Victorian-Tasmania Branch
- 2/2/1 Minutes 11 June 1923-23 April 1945
- 2/3 Victorian Sub-branch
- 2/3/1 Minutes 26 September 1916-19 January 1913
- 2 2/3/2 Minutes 24 June 1918 - 17 January 1921
- 2/3/3 Minutes 30 August 1920-11 June 1923
(NB: pp 1-34 are minutes of the Federal Council 2 September 1918-28 August 1920)
- 2/3/4 Minutes 9 July 1923-11 July 1932
- 2/3/5 Minutes 11 July 1932-9 May 1938
- 3 2/3/6 Minutes 9 May 1939-22 January 1945
- 3 RULES
- 3/1 Female Confectioners' Union: Victoria-Tasmanian Branch, Victorian Sub-branch, and Federal rules c.1940 (two copies)
- 4 ARBITRATION FILES AND AGREEMENTS
- 4/1 General
- 4/1/1 Piece work prices (as determined by Wages Board) and statistics of industry, including Wages Board determinations. 27 May 1901 - November 1940
- 4/1/2 Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration: Agreement between the Female Confectioners' Union and the

BOX NO.

- Victorian Manufacturing Confectioners' Association, MacRobertson, and Others. 1 July 1924. (two copies)
 NB: One copy contains manuscript adjustments under determination of 1 July 1926
- 4/1/3 Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904-1923: Transcript of conciliation proceedings between the Female Confectioners' Union and A.J. Abrihall and others: Tasmanian Section pp.33-126, 7-11 December 1923
- 4/1/4 Awards and Conciliation and Arbitration proceedings between the union and various employers 1 July 1923-21. December 1923
- 4/1/5 Statement in support of request for the review of female rates in the confectionery industry. c. late 1943 (two copies)
- 4/1/6 Memorandum of agreement between the Federated Confectioners' Union of Australia (Tasmanian Branch) and Cadbury-Fry-Pascall Proprietary Limited 1945
- 4 4/2 Special war-time deputations/requests/special conditions of work
- 4/2/1 Memorandum in support of application for permission to import cocoa beans: Deputation to Mr Wilkin: priority supply 10 October 1941
- 4/2/2 Similar to above (not titled) asking for support in the confectionery industry's attempt to import cocoa beans. 23 October 1941
- 4/2/3 Changed circumstances in the confectionery industry since 1942 (concerning the demand for cocoa and chocolate since the beginning of the war - lms - rest missing) c. late 1943
- 4/2/4 Industrial Welfare Division, Department of Labour and National Service. Code of working conditions for women war workers in industry. November 1942
- 4/2/5 Advance policy: Summary of questions submitted to the Commonwealth Bank by the Trading Banks, together with replies thereto c.1941(?)
- 4/2/6 Statement in support of our request for consideration of increased supplies of basic raw material, from the Federal Secretary of the Federated Confectioners' Association c.early 1940s(?)
- 4/2/7 Deputation to Trade (?) Minister requesting the allotment of shipping space to transport goods to other states c.early 1940s (?)
- 5 THE WOMAN'S CLARION
- (Official organ of the women employed in the confectionery, chocolate and cocoa industry in Australia. Monthly publication)
- 5/1 Vol.1, No.1-Vol.6, No.72., 7 November 1921- October 1927 (three volumes)
 NB: For amalgamation with Federated Confectioners' Union in 1945, see Federated Confectioners Union - main body
- Barry Street liftwell - BS
- BS 6 PHOTOGRAPHS (Embodying the Female Confectioners' Union and

FEMALE CONFECTIONERS' UNION OF AUSTRALIA

BOX NO. Photographs housed in
BWP Album 20

Please also check the UMA digitised Items online catalogue
<https://gallery.its.unimelb.edu.au>

the Federated Confectioners' Union)

- BWP/2237 6/1 Group of female confectioners lined up on roof of MacRobertson's factory. c.early 1920s. Black and white 9x20 cm
- BWP/2238 6/2 Group of female unionists lined up on roof of MacRobertsons factory. c.early 1920s (?) Black and white 9x20cm (three copies)
- BWP/2239 6/3 Variation of above
- BWP/2240 6/4 Group of female confectioners' unionists in foreground of R.S. Murray (Aust) Limited c.early 1920s(?) Black and white (two copies)
- BWP/2241 6/5 Procession float: Female confectioners Union, (Eight Hours Day ?) C.1920s(??) Black and white 14x20cm (4 copies, 1 mounted)
- 6/6 Federated Confectioners' Union: Delegates at Third Annual Picnic at Sorrento 1927 (Used in Woman's Clarion March 1927)
- 6/7 Magazine picture: Male confectioners outside shop in Fitzroy c.1890s(?)
- 6/8 Magazine print. Trophy cup. Not dated
- BWP/2242 6/9 Winners of a race at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic - winners: 1st Robertson (MacRobertsons); 2nd K. Thomas (MacRobertsons); 3rd V. Ryan (Griffiths Sweets) 1948 Black and white 5.5x8cm (see picnic programme 1943)
- BWP/2243 6/10 Union delegates at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic 1948 Black and white 5.5x8cm
- BWP/2244 6/11 Men crossing finishing line at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic c.late 1940s(?) 15.5x20.5cm Black and white
- BWP/2245 6/12 Women crossing finishing line at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic. c.1950s(?) 5.5 x 3cm Black and white
- BWP/2246 6/13 Children racing at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic c.late 1940s(?) 8x8cm black and white
- BWP/2247 6/14 Contestants in the Bathing Beauty Competition 1959 11x15.5cm black and white
- BWP/2248 6/15 Women crossing finishing line at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic 1959 11x15.5 cm black and white
- BWP/2249 6/16 Children crossing finishing line at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic 1959 11x15.5cm black and white
- BWP/2250 6/17 Contestants in the Bathing Beauty Competition c.1960(?) 11x15.5cm black and white
- BWP/2251 6/18 Winners of the Bathing Beauty Competition 1961. 11x15.5cm black and white
- BWP/2252 6/19 Contestants in the Bathing Beauty Competition 1961. 11x15.5cm black and white
- BWP/2253 6/20 Children and men at the Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic 1964 7.5x11.5cm black and white
- BWP/2254 6/21 Union delegates at the Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic 1964 7.5x11.5cm black and white
- BWP/2255 6/22 Union men at Federated Confectioners' Union Annual Picnic c.1970s(?) 11x15.5cm black and white

Maryanne McCubbin, 10 April 1987
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