

Adelaide Laetitia Miethke (1881-1962)

'Addie' was born on 8 June 1881 at Manoora, South Australia. One of 8 girls, she grew up in country SA before her family moved to Adelaide where she attended Woodville Public School.



She became a pupil-teacher in 1899 and in 1903/4 attended the University Training College. Her first teaching appointment was to Le Fevre Peninsula School. In 1915 she began teaching at Woodville High School and also studied part time to complete a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1916 she became the first female vice-president of the South Australian Public School Teachers' Union.

Adelaide was appointed as an inspector of schools in 1924. She was tasked with inspecting high schools and organising and overseeing the domestic and secretarial training in 4 schools which later became the girls' junior technical schools.

In 1941 she retired but continued to serve within the community in many capacities including with the Girl Guides Assoc., National Council of Women, Women' War Service Council, Schools Patriotic Fund of SA and the state branch of the (Royal) Flying Doctor Service.

Her involvement lead her to establish a branch of the Flying Doctor Service that was to become the world's first School of the Air which began operating from Alice Springs in 1950.

In 1942 she was founding president of the Woodville District Child Welfare Association which established four pre-schools one being our own, Adelaide Miethke Kindergarten which opened 1953.

After a short illness Addie died at her Woodville home in which she'd lived for 70 years. She was buried at the Cheltenham Cemetery.