



## **From the Vault – A Women’s Place show notes**

### **Introduction:**

As part of the Western Plains Cultural Centre’s ‘From the Vault Exhibition’ series, Local Studies Officer Simone Taylor and Education officer Rebecca Walker discuss some of the themes and ideas behind the current exhibition ‘A Women’s Place’. The title is a play on the phrase ‘A women’s place...is in the home’ and refers to the concept of separate spheres that dominated understandings of gender roles in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Rebecca and Simone will discuss the complex roles women played in this time period referencing the interesting stories of three local Dubbo women.

### **Timestamping**

00:00 – Introduction

01:00 – Explanation of the concept of Separate Spheres

03:30 – Discussion of 19<sup>th</sup> century Women’s Movement the Suffrage Movement

06:00 – Moral arguments of the Women’s Movement

07:20 – Middle class concepts of womanhood and the women’s movement.

10:00 – Discussion of the concept of the deserving and underserving poor

11:50 – Women’s work and the gender pay gap

12:45 – Local Dubbo Women in public life – Local Suffragist Blanche Soane

13:30 – Working married women - Matron Mary Adams

14:30 – Difference between suffragette and suffragist.

16:00 – Discussion of the death of suffragette Emily Davison at the Epsom Derby in Surrey, England in 1913.

17:25 – Blanche Soane and common beliefs of the women’s movement

19:20 – Prevailing views of the women’s movement related to women’s roles in politics

19:50 – Many participants in the women’s movement were not radicals.

20:40 – Matron Mary Adams – professionally trained nurse and midwife

22:10 – Discussion of Carlyle Private Hospital which closed in 1963.

23:45 – Discussion of Lying-in Hospitals in Dubbo and lack of maternity care at Dubbo Base Hospital

25:05 – Discussion of Mrs Kep Wilkins’ public career in theatre.

28:00 – The Dubbo Merry-makers entertainment troupe.

30:05 – Aboriginal Activist Pearl Gibbs - Aboriginal Civil Rights Movement



31:40 – Discussion of the complexity of women’s lives and not reducing their experiences to a simple dichotomy.

33:15 – A Women’s place exhibition is on at the Western Plains cultural Centre from 11 May to 1 December 2024.

Thank you.

To Find out more about ‘From the Vault: A Woman’s Place’ Exhibition go to:

<https://www.westernplainsculturalcentre.org/>

### Select References:

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Lauren Good, *What was the difference between the suffragists and the suffragettes?* History Extra, accessed at: <https://www.historyextra.com/period/20th-century/suffragists-suffragettes-difference/>

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