

Curriculum Vitae

Name Ruth Hope Crow

Address Flat 218, 300 Pigdon Street, North Carlton 3054
Phone (03) 380.1876

Date of Birth 14/ 9/ '16

Marital Status 1937 married Maurie Crow.
1940 and 1942 birth of two daughters.
During 1960s birth of five grand-children.
During 1980s birth of three great-grand-children.
1988 widowed.

Education 1930 Scholarship to Ballarat Church of England Grammar School.

1934 to 1936 studied for (and passed) Diploma of Institutional Management and Dietetics at Emily McPherson College, for the first year on a "Free Place" and last two years on a Senior Technical Scholarship awarded on my first year's results. (*)

In 1945 I was one of fifteen students, from all over Australia, who were chosen for their experience in community organisation, to study Group Work Techniques in the Social work Department of Melbourne University. (**)

Employment 1937 to 1943 I worked in various places as assistant dietitian, cook, waitress, joint manager of a tearooms and manageress of a factory canteen (***)

1943 to 1944 Secretary-organiser of the Brunwick Children's Centres. The first federally financed wartime child care service. (****)

1946 to 1948 Club Leader at Exhibition Youth Centre (EYC) and Education Field Officer for the Victorian Association of Youth Clubs. EYC was a very innovative scheme in community recreation located in South Fitzroy.

1953 to 1969 Part-time Teacher of Cookery and Home Economics at inner urban secondary schools.

In the late 1960s casual employment with Northern Advertiser (An Age publication) writing a column on community activities and during the 1970s similar casual employment with Melbourne Times.

Experience (Outside paid work) 1935 and 1936 Secretary Student Council at Emily McPherson College.

1938 helped to research a project on food, health and income in Victoria. The results were published in a booklet edited by Marjorie Coppel in 1939.

1939 - 1942 Helped to establish chain of youth hike hostels in the Dandenong Ranges. This was a very new idea then. (We were living in the Dandenongs)

1943 - 1944 Honorary Secretary for the South Yarra Day Nursery which was a very innovative centre providing care for children of mothers in wartime employment. Member of Committee for Co-ordinating Child Care in Wartime.

1946 - Helped initiate the Day Nursery Development Association which aimed at keeping the wartime child care centres open.

1949 - 1954 Involved with a variety of organisation which were initiating leisure time activities for children ...dance, drama, sports, music etc.

Late 1950s helped to establish the Coburg Education Committee auspiced by the Coburg Council. Helped with research on the provision of preschool services in Coburg using the 1944 State Government Report as a base for the investigation.

Late 1960s helped to establish Action for Adequate Child Care; an organisation which linked trade unions and local community organisations.

Founding member of North Melbourne Social Service and the North Melbourne Association.

Shared with Maurie Crow in writing "Plans for Melbourne Part 1, 2, and 3, which examined State Government policies on urban planning.

One of the main people responsible for publishing a monthly newsletter on urban issues..."Irregular" later called "Ecoso Exchange".

From about 1972 - helped to initiate Community Child Care, giving special attention to establishing local child care centres, and writing the handbook and magazine (that is, helping to develop theories, to popularise them and put them into practice).

Participated in preparing the Melbourne City Council Strategy plan by helping to prepare alternative plans.

1975 helped to organise the Radical Ecology Conference which was an early attempt to draw attention to the need to preserve un-renewable resources.

1977 Helped with preparation of book "Seeds for Change - Creatively Confronting the Energy Crisis."

Mid 1970s helped to establish the North and West Melbourne Neighbourhood Centre, the North Melbourne News and the North Melbourne Cosy Cottage (an innovative scheme sponsored by unions and local organisations which provided accommodation for country families visiting hospitals).

Late 1970s participated in Melbourne City Council Consultation on Children's Services.

Early 1980s on initiating group for both the North and West Melbourne Community Health Centre the Melbourne District Health Council.

In co-operation with Maurie Crow, wrote two polemical reports "Community, Consumerism and Class" and "A Charter for a Central Region" and was one of the main authors of "Make Melbourne Marvellous.

Other
Information

1972 Maurie Crow and I were jointly awarded a Robin Boyd Award by the Victorian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects for our "consistently valuable and perspective contributions to the literature of planning issues in Melbourne". The citation referred to the set of books "Plan for Melbourne Parts 1, 2 and 3" and the publication of the newsletter "Irregular" as well as the articles we had contributed to newspapers and journals.

1973 Maurie Crow and I were jointly awarded the Barrett Medal by the Town and Country Planning Association for our "notable contribution to planning". The citation referred to Maurie's involvement in the campaigns against the freeway plans and against the urban renewal bill and my contribution on child care and education.

In the late 1970s I was made a Life Member of Community Child Care in recognition of my contribution to establishing that organisation.

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Footnotes

* A Scholarship Student in the 1930s There were very few of these Senior Technical Scholarships (I think about 30 for all Victoria). I was probably one of the few women to be awarded one.

The scholarship provided for free tuition and 30 pounds a year allowance. This compared fairly favourably (when supplemented by casual work) with the wages my sister was earning of fifteen shillings a week as a typist.

We studied physics and chemistry with the male diploma students at Melbourne Technical College (RMIT). Although I had not studied these subjects at secondary school I had the highest marks by far of all students, most of the female students did not pass in these subjects.

It is interesting to note how the opportunity to begin the Diploma Course arose quite accidentally.

Towards the end of 1933 I was enrolled as a "Free Place" student for a three months course and wrote an article for the College magazine which I called "Enthusiasm". (!) This was regarded so highly that I was offered a three year free place for the much prized diploma course.

The economic situation of the family in the early 1930s can be gauged by a study of the family budget in the Crow Collection.

I could not afford text books so studied at the Public Library. I worked as a domestic in vacations but kept this fact well hidden from the other students.

All the diploma students, except one, had been educated at private schools.

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** A Mature Age Student at Melbourne University in the mid 1940s. This one-year course was supervised by the M.U. Social Work Department. It was established to train staff for community services which were expected to be developed in the post-war reconstruction period. There were three intakes of students (1944, 1945 and 1946) before it was discontinued.

I was especially favoured by being given a free place and a living allowance of about one hundred pounds a year.

I had two young children at the time. It was quite unusual for married women, let alone mothers of young children, to be studying although there was quite a large increase in mature-age ex-service students.

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*** The Training of dietitians in the 1930s To become a dietitian, once I had gained my diploma, entailed paying 20 pounds, buying uniforms and working in a hospital for twelve months without any pay at all.

The long hours also meant no time to earn money through casual work. Such conditions made continuing my career impossible. In any case I wanted to marry and marriage was a bar to even being a waitress or a cook. It was possible to keep using my single name by working as a cook or a waitress in areas where I was not known.

I was very concerned about mal-nutrition and society and did not believe that dietetics should be only practised in hospitals. My interest in what I called "scientific social feeding" resulted in employment in a factory canteen and in the Brunswick Children's Centre.

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**** Innovations in Child Care in the 1940s The My main responsibility was the School Centre which provided a midday dinner for about 100 children, after school and holiday activities recruiting and organising about 20 to 30 voluntary helpers, and also helping to co-ordinate the already existing creche and kindergartens so that the three sections were linked in the one scheme. (Some basic documents on the Brunswick Children's Centre are in the Crow Collection).