

SA Heritage Register

Nomination form



Government of South Australia
Department for Environment
and Water

NOMINATION FORM

To help your nomination be successful, please fill out this form with as much information as possible.

Feel free to expand the answer fields as much as you require or append information to the form.

It is important that you attach images and a map of what you are nominating by email or by fax.

Please note that places which have been nominated during past three years will not be reconsidered by the South Australian Heritage Council unless you can provide significant new information not provided through the previous nomination and assessment.

For assistance with this form you may contact:

Your local historical society or heritage adviser may be of assistance OR you may telephone an assessment officer in Heritage South Australia on (08) 8124 4960.

A. Nominated Place

1. Name	
Name of Place / Object:	Lucy Morice Kindergarten
Any other or former name(s):	Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten
Is the place already on another heritage list?	No

2. Location					
Street Address:	80 Sussex Street				
	Suburb / Town:	North Adelaide	Post Code:	5006	
Local Council Name:	City of Adelaide				
Land Description: (if known)	Title:	Volume:	Folio:	Parcel Type:	Parcel No:
	Plan Type:	Plan No:	Section:	Hundred:	
GPS Location/s: (If known)	Longitude / Easting / X		Latitude / Northing / Y (Datum =)		

3. Ownership	
Name of Owner(s):	[REDACTED]
Contact person: (if different from owner explain relationship)	
Postal Address:	[REDACTED]
Phone Number:	[REDACTED]
Ownership History:	

4. Nominator (your details)	
Your Name/s:	[REDACTED]
Organisation/Position:	[REDACTED]
Daytime Phone:	[REDACTED]
Fax:	
Postal Address:	Street Address:
	Suburb / Town: Post Code:
Email Address:	[REDACTED]



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B. Description

5. Description of nominated place or object	
Description of the nominated place or object and its current condition:	<p>The Kindergarten faces Sussex Street and above the stepped parapet are inscribed the date, 1935 and its original name, The Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten" in block letters in a modern font.</p> <p>Described in the press at its opening in 1935 as designed "on modernistic lines" Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten was constructed in dark red brick on a salt-glazed dark green brick base. Its Art Deco features are quite restrained, as one might expect so soon after the Depression, but include the stepped parapet facing onto Sussex Street, with its horizontal banding, the banded rain head, the name of the kindergarten in large metal letters, and the wide windows adjacent to the entrance doors.</p> <p>There were and are two main rooms, the smaller one originally for the 'infants', which could be opened into one by means of sliding doors. The lintel above the doors separating these two main rooms featured a stream-lined curve. A 'spacious' bay window on the southern side and large windows with sliding glass sashes on the eastern side combined to admit the maximum amount of sun and air, as the Mothers' Committee had stipulated during discussions in the planning of the Kindergarten. The east side opened onto a wide cement crazy-paved terrace and verandah, with built-in flower boxes and low seats for the children. These features are still present today, although the verandah area has been expanded.</p> <p>While there have been minor additions and alterations, primarily to outside spaces, the basic layout of the spaces is largely unchanged, including the child-sized bathroom fixtures.</p>
Are you aware of any modifications or additions to the place or object? Can you provide dates for these changes?	
Do you believe there may be historical items under the ground? Should an archaeological investigation be considered?	No
Date you inspected the place or object:	September, 2024
Current use of the place or object:	Kindergarten [REDACTED]
Original or former use(s):	Kindergarten, Kindergarten Union of South Australia
Are there any current or long term threats to the nominated place or object?	As the Lucy Morice Kindergarten is still operating under the jurisdiction of the [REDACTED] it is not known to be under any immediate threat. However, land in North Adelaide is very valuable for housing and family sizes continue to decrease to below replacement levels, posing a possible threat in the future. The authors note the demolition of the former Bowden Free Kindergarten, from



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	1927 located at 29 Sixth Avenue Bowden, despite it being recommended as a State Heritage Place in the Hindmarsh Heritage Study prepared by John Dallwitz and Susan Marsden in 1985. Townhouses now stand where the kindergarten once operated. It is interesting to note that in 1928, when the Bowden Kindergarten Committee decided to erect a new building on the site of the earlier one, Lucy Spence Morice gave 50 pounds to ensure that the kindergarten could retain all the land as a playground for the children. [Jubilee History]
Name of Builder:	
Any other information:	

C. History

6. Origins and history	
Years of Construction:	Start: 1935 Finish: 1935
Name of Designer / Architect:	Practice of Barrett and Glover
History of the nominated place or object:	<p>At the turn of the 20th century, the cottages of North Adelaide were home to the working class people who kept the city running. Families were generally large and living conditions were poor.</p> <p>In 1905, the Kindergarten Union was established through the efforts of Reverend Bertram Hawker, Lucy Morice and others. Over the next 20 years, 8 free kindergartens were established in the poorest parts of the city, including, in 1925 and 1926, two that were to serve the families of North Adelaide.</p> <p>The newly-built Barker Kindergarten, 1926, located in Tynte Street and today a State Heritage Place, was to serve the residents of the northern part of North Adelaide. It replaced a kindergarten that had been operating in the Archer Street Methodist Hall since 1921. It was paid for by Mrs A and Miss E. Barker in memory of their husband and father. These two ladies were on kindergarten committee, but the name in fact commemorates two gentlemen who had no direct association with the kindergarten,</p> <p>In 1925, The Lower North Adelaide Free Kindergarten, later to be renamed the Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten in her honour, opened in a house gifted by Miss Alice Sheridan, daughter of Keith Sheridan, at 50 MacKinnon Parade, Lower North Adelaide. It would appear that money was borrowed to add a room to the house for the purpose of establishing a kindergarten. Mrs Hugh Davis and Miss King approached the government for an additional grant of one hundred pounds for the director's salary. Miss Phyllis Stewart was appointed Director and Mrs A.C. McDonald was Chair of the kindergarten committee for the first year. [source: Jubilee History 1905-55]. An article in the Register the following year [1926] notes that Lower North Adelaide Free Kindergarten accommodated 36</p>



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children and had waiting list of many more. It also mentioned that having built at room next to the Keith Sheridan Institute, funds were needed to pay off the loan. [Reference: Register, Sat 10 Apr 1926 p. 12 Social Round American tea]. The mortgage for the kindergarten room was noted as being paid off in the KUSA 1929-30 report, which also shows Lucy Morice on the committee of the Lower North Adelaide Kindergarten. Moreover, she was appointed by the KUSA Executive to be one of the Executive members who joined the kindergarten committee in for the purpose of selecting an honorary architect for the new kindergarten. [KUSA Executive Minutes, February 1934]

In 1934, an article in The News [22 Sept 1934, p. 6 In Town and Out] stated "The Committee of the Lower North Adelaide Free Kindergarten wishes to raise enough money to build a new kindergarten in that district.....At present the kindergarten is housed in a small and inadequate hall, where everything necessary for the children's welfare cannot be supplied." A larger, dedicated kindergarten building was the obvious answer, but South Australia was now entering some of the darkest days in its history with the onset of the Great Depression.

At some point a Building Fund was established [it is mentioned in Advertiser, Fri 28 Sept 1934 p. 18 Social Notes]- but was making slow progress during the difficult economic conditions. Fund raising for a stand-alone kindergarten proceeded slowly through the worst years of the Depression. For example, forty pounds were raised in one year by the Mothers' Club, with The Advertiser commenting drily: "What this means can only be estimated by those who know at first-hand how much poverty there is among them. Literally they have gathered this money together in pennies and threepences by little fetes and concerts." The Advertiser 28 Aug 1935 p. 12. Model Kindergarten for North Adelaide.

In September 1934, the Branch Committee approached the Adelaide City Council for permission to locate a kindergarten next to the MacKinnon Parade playground in the North Adelaide parklands, [21] Permission was refused, as City by-laws stipulated that parklands could only be used for recreational purposes. In February 1935, the committee negotiated the purchase of two blocks of land in Sussex Street, North Adelaide at a cost of 250 pounds [22 AND Executive Committee minutes of 1935] With an estimated cost of £1500 (before furnishings) for a new building, the North Adelaide kindergarten committee would have had to take out a large mortgage. [For example, the fete held in 1934 raised twenty pounds. At that rate the new kindergarten would be years away.] Lucy Morice's generous offer of £500 instead enabled building to commence at once [but noting that this sum was nowhere near the total cost of the new edifice.]



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Tenders were called by the honorary architects, Barrett and Glover, on 22nd June 1935 and work began almost immediately, with the foundation stone laid on 28th September and the opening ceremony held in December of the same year, although the building work was not quite complete .

On the 6th of December 1935, in the presence of a large gathering, Lucy Morice opened the building named after her by simply unlocking the doors and allowing the children to file inside. She was 74 years of age at this time and in a brief address remarked that she represented the past, Lady Bonython (Chairperson of the KUSA) the present, and the children the future. [24] Lady Bonython paid a tribute to Mrs. Morice's 30 years of service, stating that Mrs. Morice had lived to see, as a result, the opening of the eleventh free kindergarten. In a further tribute to Mrs Morice, graduates of the Montessori Kindergarten Training College presented a piano to the new kindergarten. [25]

The extent of the admiration for Lucy Spence Morice that was felt at all levels is obvious in all written sources from 1905 and will be explained in further detail in the material under Criterion [g] below.

The Kindergarten has operated continuously on the Sussex Street site since December 1935. In 1975 the Kindergarten Union became a statutory body and in 1985 responsibility for the KUSA's 300 kindergartens transferred to the Education Department of South Australia.



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Historical sources used to support your nomination:

Please attach copies of pages from publications or newspaper articles as appropriate.

1. On the Depression in South Australia and the KUSA kindergartens

[<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/the-great-depression/> accessed 24-2-26]

'Kindergarten Union of South Australia through 75 years 1905 - 1980.' Kindergarten Union of SA. Adelaide, 1980. pp 4-5]

KUSA Executive minutes Tuesday 19 May 1931 and Tues 17 November 1931- salary cuts for staff.

Advertiser Wed 30 Aug 1933 p. 8 'Soup for Free Kindergarten'
The Mail Sat 13 Dec 1930 p. 3 'Oh My Feet.'

2. On Lucy Morice and KUSA Kindergartens in general:

Trethewey, L. "Lucy Spence Morice: Mother of Kindergartens" in South Australia. History of Education Review, vol. 37, no. 2, 2008 pp. 14-25

'Growth of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia, 1905 to 1930'. KUSA Incorporated

Kindergarten Union of South Australia, 1929-1930, no authors given. [available at the State Archives of SA].

Burgess, Keeves & Prest.' Jubilee History of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia 1905-1955.' KUSA, 1975.

Dr Helen Jones, 'Kindergartens', SA History Hub, History Trust of South Australia,
<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/kindergartens/>

Helen Jones, 'Morice, Louise (Lucy) (1859-1951)', Australian Dictionary of Biography, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University,
<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/morice-louise-lucy-7655/text13389>, published first in hardcopy 1986, accessed online 24 February 2026.

Hindmarsh Heritage Study prepared by John Dallwitz and Susan Marsden "of Heritage Investigations" [regarding heritage recommendation for Bowden Kindergarten]

Talks given by Lillian de Lissa at the Golden Jubilee of the Kindergarten Union of SA, 1955. KUSA, Reprinted 1975.

Wainwright, Anne. *A tribute to Lucy Spence Morice*. Adelaide, 1962. Unpublished manuscript p 2. Barr Smith Library, Special Collections.



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'Lucy Morice.' Wikipedia. Accessed 29th July 2024.

'For South Australia's Children. A history of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia 1905 – 1985.' Carmichael, J. John Denton Memorial and Lillian de Lissa Scholarships Committee. Adelaide, 2002.

'History of Montessori's influence in Australia Part 1: Beginnings of the Montessori movement in Australia. Beth posted 17/01/2018. The Montessorian <https://themontessorian.com.au> Accessed 13 August 2024.

D. Heritage Significance

7. Statement of State Significance - Why is the place or object important to South Australia?

It is of State heritage significance because it is an intact and largely original kindergarten dating from one of the most difficult economic periods SA has ever faced- the Great Depression 1930-35, when the state's overall unemployment reached around 32% with the unemployment rate amongst the families of the children who attended the North Adelaide Free Kindergarten double this figure. The Kindergarten is named after Lucy Morice as it was largely due to her efforts that the new kindergarten premises in Sussex Street, North Adelaide opened in 1935. However, it must be noted that the success of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia [henceforth KUSA] and the opening of 10 Free kindergartens before 1935 were also intimately associated with the efforts of Mrs Morice. She was a founder member of the KUSA in 1905 who worked tirelessly across a wide range of roles for the Union from this time until her death, at age 92, in 1951. Lucy Morice was to become a Life Member and Vice President of the Kindergarten Union. Without exception, all sources covering the activities of the KUSA during the period 1906 – 1951 make clear the extremely high regard in which Lucy Spence Morice was held. This esteem was also reflected in the effort made by the KUSA Executive Committee [mentioned in the Executive Minutes of December 1935] to see that her efforts were appropriately recognised and rewarded in the King's Birthday Honors list of August 1936, in which she was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

8. Significance Criteria

The South Australian *Heritage Places Act 1993* lists seven criteria by which places are assessed as 'State significant.' Please tick the criteria you feel the place demonstrates and explain your reasons.

It demonstrates important aspects of the evolution or pattern of the State's history.

The Lucy Morice Kindergarten demonstrates the development of early childhood education in SA, and in particular the challenges facing the Kindergarten Union of South Australia [KUSA] in operating existing kindergartens and building new premises for kindergartens during the years of the Great Depression, 1930-1935. This was a period when South Australia's overall unemployment rate was the second highest in the world, and the rate among the fathers of the KUSA kindergartens was an estimated 75%, forcing mothers to become wage earners. [Reference: *Kindergarten Union of South Australia through 75 years 1905 -1980*. Kindergarten Union of SA. Adelaide, 1980. pp 4-5]

It would appear that during this period only two new kindergarten premises were built by the KUSA: the Hackney Kindergarten [1932] and the Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten [1935]. Thus, the very fabric of these two buildings serves to illustrate the poverty of the times and the enormous challenges faced by the local kindergarten committees and the KUSA executive in raising funds to purchase land, erect buildings and staff the kindergartens. As a matter of necessity, the new kindergartens erected during the Depression were modest, almost minimal, in scale, design and fittings. **Quite unassuming buildings like this have been overlooked in heritage surveys to date, yet it seems obvious that they are amongst the very rarest constructions of the twentieth century, being initiated and built under such difficult economic circumstances.**

The material below is entirely drawn from the SA History Hub entry on the Great Depression.

<https://sahistoryhub.history.sa.gov.au/subjects/the-great-depression/>
accessed 24-2-26]

The generally accepted peak of the Great Depression was from 1929 to 1933, beginning with the October 1929 collapse of the Wall Street stock market in New York. During this period all of South Australia's sectors were hit hard leading to the highest unemployment level in the country.

Unemployment

The official figures of unemployment among trade unionists show that South Australia's yearly average of unemployment was 7.2% in 1927 (national average 7%). In 1928, the yearly average was 15% (national average 10.8%). By 1930, it was 23.3% (national average 19.3%), and by 1932, the figure rose to 34% (national average 29%). These official statistics grossly underestimate the true figures of unemployment because they do not include people who were not represented by the trade unions, such as: unskilled workers, female workers, the elderly and young people. A more accurate estimate of the unemployed in South Australia was somewhere between 39% and 45% by 1932. Even at the official estimate of 34%, South Australia reached the second highest rate of unemployment in the world coming second only to Germany which reached a rate of 43.8%.

Hardship

Hardship during the Great Depression was largely felt by people and their families who suffered a loss or reduction in employment. Mortgage payments, unemployment or reduced income meant that finding shelter soon became a problem. In the 1933 Census, almost 60 per cent of the unemployed were living in rented accommodation. Prior to the Great Depression, housing was not seen to be a government responsibility, which left the poor responsible for keeping up with payments. It was not until 1936 that the government introduced the Housing Trust Bill to provide low-cost accommodation to families.

Health

Poor health was a result of poor housing conditions where basic sanitation was lacking, and conditions were crowded. Diseases associated with poor living conditions became common occurrences, especially amongst children and the elderly. Children received much smaller rations than adults which led to undernourishment and disease. Sick children flooded the Royal Adelaide Hospital, and people were forced to wait for hours in the heat and rain just to see a general practitioner. The infant mortality rate increased again after being in decline during the early 1920s.

Relief

In 1930, the Unemployment Relief Council was set up to administer funds set aside by the Federal Government for providing relief. By June 1932, 24, 278 South Australian families were receiving relief from the Council. South Australia was much less generous in its relief to the unemployed

than the other states, it provided less public works employment, and less relief in the form of food and rations. The weekly ration allowance for a single adult was 5s 3d which provided provision for goods such as meat, bread, sugar, jam, oatmeal, tea, raisins, and soap, but none for accommodation, transport, or clothing. Half rations were given to children under the age of fourteen.

Over time, household and personal items wore out, this especially applied to clothing which was not a part of the Government relief package. This especially applied to footwear as many people walked long distances every day in search of work or to collect rations.

Extra work

During the Great Depression, increasing numbers of women were seeking work which challenged traditional assumptions that women were primarily responsible for child rearing and domestic life. Women were able to make economic contributions during their husband's unemployment, but these contributions were still treated as marginal to the mainstream economy so as not to undermine the husband despite females making up 20.4 per cent of the workforce in 1933. Women used their skills and countered hardships by offering services such as dressmaking and baking for some extra income.

Recovery

South Australia was slow to recover from the Great Depression with its effects lingering on into the post-World War II period. As the economy began to recover in the mid-1930s, prices of food, clothing, and housing began to rise again which caused continuing problems for those who were unable to regain employment, and there was less sympathy in the community and from charitable agencies for the unemployed.

Changes in the services provided by kindergartens during the Depression

The economic and social hardships outlined above forced the KUSA to make some important changes to its modus operandi. One was to allow 'infants' from the age of two years, to be admitted to its Free Kindergartens, thus freeing some time for mothers to earn income by working inside or outside the home.

The second major change related to the quickly noted decrease in the general health of the kindergarten students. In response the KUSA Free Kindergartens made at least three important changes:

1. To offer healthy food [mainly from donations] for the 11 o'clock recess break.
2. To assist in the location and distribution of relief to the families of the kindergarten students: shoes and clothing.
3. Arranging a programme of weekly visits by the honorary doctors in order to weigh and assess the children's general and dental health and to

make appropriate referrals as necessary.

The added difficulties of the Depression period and the KUSA's response are made clear in numerous sources, such as:

"This year has been a difficult one for the Directors because of the poverty in the Kindergarten Homes. Seventy-five per cent of the fathers of the children are out of work and this has meant in many cases that the mother is the wage earner, and the children consequently have come to Kindergarten at an earlier age than usual, as there is no one to look after them in the home. The children have been provided with crispies, milk, soup and fruit at the various kindergartens and these have done much towards preventing sickness, though there has been more illness amongst them than in previous years, probably owing to the insufficient or wrong kinds of food and scanty clothing. The kindergartens also have been a distributing centre for old and new garments... "Quoted in *The Kindergarten Union of South Australia through 75 years 1905 -1980*. Kindergarten Union of SA. Adelaide, 1980. pp 4-5.

Similarly in *The News* 14 Oct 1930 p. 5 Kindergarten Union [reporting on the KUSA AGM] "All centres had done much relief work, and new and second-hand garments, milk; food, and vegetables had been distributed to about 400 needy families."

Shoes were in short supply. SLASA Photograph B6811 shows two small boys, shoeless, outside the Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten in 1936.

The financial impact was spelt out in *The News* 6 Oct 1931 p. 5 *Woman's World* reporting on the KUSA AGM of 1931: "The credit balance of £40 as against £130 last year was due to a falling off in general revenue and subscriptions. The staff accepted a reduction of 5 per cent in salaries". They were to offer a further, voluntary, reduction in salaries the following year. The same article: also noted that "Medical inspection of the children is made by Drs. Mildred Mocatta, Winifred Wall, Constance Finlayson, and Ruth Gault and Miss Ida Cox gives free dental treatment to some."

Lucy Morice [Free] Kindergarten as an example of new kindergarten premises built during the Depression.

Lucy Morice Kindergarten is largely unchanged since its construction in 1935. It is still in daily use as a kindergarten. It is, thus, a monument to the huge determination and effort of the early founders of the KUSA, the members of the North Adelaide Free Kindergarten committee and Mrs Lucy Spence Morice herself to overcome the economic and social challenges of the Depression years to find a site, erect a building and get it staffed and operating so as to accommodate more of the very needy children of the area.

It has rare, uncommon or endangered qualities that are of cultural significance.

<input type="checkbox"/> It may yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the State's history, including its natural history.	
<input type="checkbox"/> It is an outstanding representative of a particular class of places of cultural significance.	
<input type="checkbox"/> It demonstrates a high degree of creative, aesthetic or technical accomplishment or is an outstanding representative of particular construction techniques or design characteristics.	
<input type="checkbox"/> It has strong cultural or spiritual associations for the community or a group within it.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It has a special association with the life or work of a person or organisation or an event of historical importance.	<p>Mrs Louise 'Lucy' Spence Morice MBE was a co-founding member of the KUSA in 1905, but she was active across a range of social issues.</p> <p>School for Mothers Institute / Mothers and Babies Health Association Her interest in improving the lives of mothers and their children also led her to become a founding member with Dr Mildred Mocatta and Harriet Stirling of the School for Mothers Institute in 1909. Inspired by a lecture from a visiting worker at the St Pancreas School for Mothers, the three women arranged a public meeting at the Franklin Street Kindergarten which led to the foundation of the School for Mothers. In 1912 they secured state funding to rent premises on Wright Street in the City. As its President, Lucy Morice campaigned against high infant mortality rates. The School promoted breast feeding, nutritional advice and basic maternal medicine for mothers.</p> <p>In 1926 the School became the Mothers and Babies Health Association (MBHA) running 39 clinics across the state. The Association is credited with helping South Australia to achieve by 1937 the lowest infant mortality rate in the world, an extraordinary outcome given the severe social and health impact of the Great Depression earlier in the decade. [Louise (Lucy) Morice 1859-1951. Jones, Helen. Australian Dictionary of Biography online. Child and Family Health Service: History. https://www.cafhs.sa.gov.au/about/history accessed 29 March 2024.]</p> <p>Women's Suffrage Organisations In 1895 Lucy along with her Aunt, Catherine Helen Spence, set up the Women's League 'to educate women politically and to work for the interests of women and children.' Its failure Lucy attributed to the dominance of party politics and male hostility. Lucy was more successful with the Women's (later Non-Party) Political Association. Established in 1909 on the advice of leading feminist advocate Vida Goldstein it would</p>

pursue practical and effective steps to encourage reform in various areas affecting women and children. Lucy succeeded her Aunt as its president and the Association eventually became the League of Women Voters of South Australia. [Louise (Lucy) Morice. Jones, Helen ADB op.cit]

In 1916-17 she was a vice-president of the wartime League of Loyal Women.

South Australian Co-operative Clothing Company

In February 1902 Lucy, her Aunt Catherine Spence and Agnes Milne formed the Working Women's Co-operative Clothing Company. Conceived by Agnes Milne to prevent sweating conditions in an industry dominated by women and to offer mutual economic benefits to women across the social strata its membership was composed entirely of women. The double story factory was the first clothing factory to use electricity, was well lit, clean and provided good working conditions. Lucy was a foundation shareholder and after Catherine Spence's death in 1910 she became the Company Chair. To begin with the Co-operative flourished but commercial competition and what Lucy saw as the individualism of Australians resulted in the enterprise being liquidated in early 1913. [Lucy Morice. Wikipedia. Accessed 29 July 2024.]

Fabianism and trade unions

In 1903 on a trip to England Lucy and her husband James Percy, long serving SA Parliamentary Librarian, met the Shaws and other Fabians. Lucy and her husband assisted in the founding of an Adelaide Fabian Group claiming to be a socialist. In 1905 she joined a United Trades and Labor Council committee to establish a new trade union, the Women's Employment Mutual Association in which she actively participated as an honorary member. Around this time she became interested in the then fashionable creed of Theosophy and, more importantly, turned to Anglicanism which led to her association with the Anglican priest and social reformer the Rev Bertram Hawker.

Kindergarten Union of South Australia

In September 1905, Lucy Morice assisted Rev Bertram Hawker and his wife, who had been impressed by the work of the Woolloomooloo Free Kindergarten, to arrange an Adelaide demonstration of kindergarten methods by the Principal of the Sydney Kindergarten Training College, Frances Newton and her most promising student, Lillian de Lissa. A meeting of interested parties was held on 26 September to consider the formation of a kindergarten union in South Australia, with the aim of establishing free kindergartens in the poorest parts of the city. At the inaugural meeting, held on 5th November 1905, Mrs Morice was elected to the committee initially as minute secretary then from 1913 until 1932 she was given the role of honorary Organising Secretary.

As Dr Helen Jones in her entry on Lucy Spence Morice in the Australian Dictionary of Biography, noted: "In 1905 she had helped to found the Kindergarten Union of South Australia which became her most passionate commitment."

Born in 1859, it is important to note that Lucy Morice was already 47 years of age when the KUSA was founded. Despite this, and at a time when lifespans were generally shorter than today, **she was to continue working extremely actively to promote the aims of the KUSA for the next 45 years,** until her death at the age of 92 in 1951. In recognition of this long history of dedicated service, Lucy Morice was elected the only Life Member of the Kindergarten Union, in 1930. Her role in the success of the KUSA was acknowledged repeatedly during her lifetime and afterwards.

Lucy Morice's first roles, from 1905, were those of Executive Committee member and Organising Secretary. As a member of the founding Executive group, one of her earliest tasks was to convince both the government and the parents of pre-school age children of the value of kindergartens, which were a new concept in South Australia. It was also quickly realised that in order to have qualified teachers for kindergartens, a teacher training college was needed. Lucy Morice was a member of a deputation which approached the Premier and Minister of Education for a grant for this purpose.

The Training College opened in 1907 in Franklin Street with 11 students, with Lillian de Lissa as Principal. It was to move to Palmer Place in 1915. In addition to her duties as Organising Secretary Mrs Morice for 27 years lectured on educational history to students at the Training College. She and Lillian de Lissa had advocated for this course, and according to Dr Helen Jones in the Dictionary of Biography she "stimulated them to read widely."

According to Wainwright [1962] she was to give up many of her other *outside* responsibilities in order to find the time to do this. "Lucy (Morice) gave History of Education lectures with students sitting at her feet. In first year of the training course there were 11 students who met in the Public Library. She resigned from all other organisations for which she worked that she might do justice to the very demanding task of Lecturer Mother to us all... and that of Honorary Secretary to the Kindergarten Union. It was on her shoulders that so much of the strain fell." She was to maintain a lifelong friendly interest in the future of many of the graduates and was a much-loved mentor to many.

In 1924, aged 66, she had served as Secretary for 19 years. With the KUSA having opened 8 Free kindergartens as well as some church-affiliated kindergartens, Lucy Morice felt that its organisational growth necessitated a full-time, paid Secretary. For this position she recommended Miss Doris Beeston, herself a graduate of the Kindergarten Training College. Meanwhile, Lucy Morice herself remained in the role of honorary Organising Secretary until September 1932, when she asked to relinquish the role. [Reference: News 6 Oct 1931 p. 5 Woman's World and KUSA Executive minutes 20 September 1932].

The value of her efforts in monetary terms alone are made clear in the

following excerpt from the Jubilee History of KUSA 1905-30 in Chapter IV, page 76, where under the heading 'Finances' it is recorded that: "Until 1928, all secretarial and administrative work was done voluntarily. The great bulk of the work fell upon the shoulders of Mrs Lucy Morice and was of inestimable value in keeping the cost down to less than 5 pounds per child, when costs in England were 14 pounds per child."

On relinquishing this busy role, in appreciation of her many years of active service, Mrs Morice was elected a Vice President of the Kindergarten Union, while remaining Secretary of the Education Committee. [KUSA Executive Committee Sept 1934]. She was to remain a Vice-President from 1932 until her death in 1951.

Lucy Morice's efforts for the KUSA did not by any means end when she received an MBE in 1936. She remained on the Executive Committee until at least 1940, when an article in Advertiser Wed Oct 29 p. 7 'Fine work for SA Children' noted Mrs Morice *was* on the Executive Committee, the Education Committee and in addition was *also* a member of a new 'Organising Committee.' This at the age of 81! Newspapers of the following 3 years do not contain reports of the KUSA AGMs, possibly due to the shortage of newsprint during the war. However, The News on 1st November 1945 noted that while Lucy Morice would not be present at the 40th AGM, "she will open the fete arranged by the mothers' club at the Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten on Saturday afternoon."

A full listing of all newspaper reports concerning Lucy Morice and her relationship with the KUSA in the period 1936-1951 is appended to this document.

In addition to her role on the KUSA Executive and as Organising Secretary, Lucy Morice also assisted the kindergarten committees which managed the business affairs of their respective kindergartens, for example, to identify land suitable for the building of new kindergartens such as Bowden Free Kindergarten. She helped with the very many large and small fundraisers which were necessary to keep the free, non-fee paying kindergartens operating.

Lucy Morice was clearly involved in the Lower North Adelaide Kindergarten's efforts to bring about the new building that was to bear her name. She is shown to have been *a member* in the report on the Lower North Adelaide *Kindergarten* for the year 1929-30 [see appendices] In December 1934, following the purchase of the land in Sussex Street, she was appointed by the KUSA Executive to be one of the Executive members who joined the kindergarten committee in for the purpose of selecting an honorary architect [Executive minutes, February 1935] Her work for and interest in this kindergarten was to continue unabated until she reached what she self-described as 'her hospital years.' [see Appendices]. It seems clear from all the evidence that the naming of the Kindergarten was to recognise and honour the woman whose efforts had underpinned not only this Kindergarten but all of the KUSA's efforts to this point.

Mrs Morice universally held in the utmost regard at all levels of the KUSA.

Examination of all manner of sources consistently reveals the extremely high regard in which Mrs Morice was held at all levels of the KUSA: the Executive Committee, the students and staff of the Kindergarten Training College, the parents and students of the Lucy Morice kindergarten.

In 1930 The Register Wed Oct 15 p. 17 reported "Mrs Morice made an honorary Life Member of the KUSA, with Lady Bonython stating that she was "the main inspiration of the movement from the beginning" and specifically mentioning Mrs Morice's 25 years of loyal service.

In 1932 Mrs Morice was made Vice President of the KUSA.

Perhaps the most important evidence of the high regard in which she was held by the KUSA executive is an intriguing entry in the Minutes of the meeting held 19 November 1935, which reads [the original is reproduced in the Addenda to his submission]:

"The Secretary reported that enquiries had been made re recognition of the services of Mrs Morice being made through the Government, and the matter taken in hand".

As Mrs Morice's MBE was awarded in the King's Birthday Honours list in June 1936, [ie: the following year] it seems obvious that it was the Executive Committee itself who initiated this great honour, which was then noted as follows in the Report of the Co-Principals and General Directors for the year 1935-36

"We would like to give our hearty congratulations to Mrs J P Morice MBE on the well deserved honour conferred on her by HM the King. Mrs Morice has worked consistently throughout her life for the welfare of others, and it is gratifying to the Kindergarten Union, for which she has done so much, that this recognition has come."

The Kindergarten Union of South Australia (Incorporated) Annual Report 1935-36 p 11.

Photo Lucy Morice Kindergarten 1935-36 Annual Report p 28.

Death of Mrs Morice

Upon her death on 10th June 1951, she was cremated having requested that "no one shall wear mourning for me ... nor send any flowers." [Louise (Lucy) Morice Jones, Helen ADB op cit]

"Obituary – With the death of Mrs Lucy Spence Morice on June 10th at the age of 91, the Union lost its oldest friend and benefactor. Mrs Morice was one of the first members of the Kindergarten Union and with the Rev Bertram Hawker was responsible for the foundation of the work in South Australia. Her unselfish and unsparing efforts were an incentive to all who knew her. She was an honorary lecturer at the (Training) College, Honorary Secretary to the Union for 27 years, a Vice-President and an Honorary Life Member. She was a member of various Branch

Kindergarten Committees and worked for the Lower North Adelaide Kindergarten, giving generously to its funds and when the building was erected it was given her name. Her photograph now hangs in this, the Lucy Morice Kindergarten, with her MBE medal beneath it. Committee members speak of her work with deep affection and staff members who knew her in the earlier days drew inspiration from her zeal and unflinching courage in spite of difficulties." The Kindergarten Union of South Australia (Incorporated) 46th Annual Report 1950-51 p 8.

Finally, in 1955 when Lillian de Lissa, principal of the KTC and also director of KUSA's kindergartens from 1907-1917, paid a return visit to South Australia on the occasion of KUSA's 50th anniversary, this revered woman paid her own tributes to Lucy Morice as follows in a speech at the Lyceum Club:-

"In her report in 1906- the KU's first Annual Report, the late Lucy Morice, **whose contribution to the Kindergarten Movement is incalculable**, summed up with these words- "the kindergarten is not a merely charity: it is a far reaching educational reform [p. 1] This was followed on p. 6 with "So has Mrs Morice's prophesy come true: the kindergarten has given birth to educational reform that has spread from Australia to many other countries and to many types of schools."

Recognition by other historians

In 2008, an article by Dr Lynne Trethewey, an academic from the University of South Australia, entitled "Lucy Spence Morice: Mother of Kindergartens in South Australia" was published in the History of Education Review [Appended to this document]. After a thorough examination of all the historical sources on a scale much broader than the writers of this submission could hope to achieve, Dr Trethewey concluded that:

"she [LSM] lived on in 'the ever widening circle of kindergarten expansion and in the hearts of those who loved her' *but her maternal guidance of this State's free kindergarten movement across half a century of change has escaped historians' attention- until now.*" [this author's own italics]

E. Additional Information

9. Images/Maps/Diagrams/Site Plans

A full range of images including maps, site plans, and photographs will help your nomination.

Please provide:

- a clear outline of the place or object being nominated within any maps or plans provided
- high quality images of the place or object (please list the total number of images being provided)
- the subject of each image
- the date each image was created
- the author of each image, and
- the copyright holder of each image (if known)

Paste images here:

Addenda

- 1. Dr Lynne Trethewey "Lucy Spence Morice: Mother of Kindergartens' in South Australia. Scanned copy of article. History of Education Review, vol. 37, no. 2, 2008 pp. 14-25**
- 2. Photographs: All photos other than SLSA B811 are copyright Art Deco and Modernism Society of Australia, Adelaide Chapter**
- 3. Time line of mentions of Lucy Spence Morice in South Australian newspapers 1936-1952.**

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The South Australian Heritage Council is committed to transparency in relation to the listing process and wishes to enhance public confidence in the nomination, listing and decision-making process. The Council's policy is to make nominations for State heritage listing and submissions on provisional entries publicly available via webpage or to interested parties. The Council will adhere to the Privacy Principles and your name and personal details will not be released.

I/we, [Redacted] nominate LUSY MORICE KINDERGARTEN
to be [Redacted] [Enter place name or business here]

The information I/we have provided is correct to my/our knowledge.

Your Signature/s: [Redacted]

Date: 11/3/26

A heritage officer may contact you to discuss aspects of the nomination.

Nomination Form Checklist

Please check that your nomination includes:

- A clear indication of the location of the place or object (including map/s). Where a number of features are nominated, show the location of each and/or a boundary surrounding the significant elements of the site.
- A history of the place or object explaining important aspects relevant to the nomination.
This should generally help support arguments of cultural significance.
- A clear description of the nominated place or object/s.
- A statement of significance and indication on how the place or object satisfies one or more of the significance criteria.
- A heritage officer may contact you to discuss aspects of the nomination.

Email: DEWNRHeritage@sa.gov.au

Post: Executive Officer, South Australian Heritage Council

Department for Environment and Water

GPO Box 1047, Adelaide 5001

LUCY MORICE TIMELINE 1936- 1951 [born 1859, aged 77- 92 in this document]

Year	Age of LSM	Event	Reference
1936	77	Birthday party for LSM held at the kindergarten MBE announced Election of officers- VP and on executive committee	3 March Advertiser p. 6 Birthday Kindergarten Advertiser 23-6-36 p 9 Educationist Honored Mail 27 June p. 2 Honored by King- Mrs Morice News 26 Oct p. 8 Progress of Kindergartens. "The most important happening of the year was the bestowal of M.B.E. on Mrs. J. P. Morice, pioneer and supporter of kindergarten work in Adelaide. "
1937	78	Describes role of LSM at Bowden, and generally to KU as well as to LM Kindergarten, appreciation thereof. Also Barker Kindergarten being named. Election of officers: LSM remains a VP and on Executive committee Speaks at opening of extension to Port Adelaide Kindergarten, representing Lady Bonython in her absence.	Advertiser, Wed 11 Aug 1937 p. 10 Women's Organisations VALUABLE WORK AMONG CHILDREN Advertiser 26 Oct 1937 p. 11 News 4 November p. 12 Kindergarten Wing At Port Adelaide
1938	79	February- LSM wishes success to students taking refresher course in social work April- entertains to meet principal of Kindergarten Training College of Victoria With committee of LM Kindergarten, puts on bridge party fundraiser at the kindergarten LSM Holds farewell function for 2 retiring co-principals of Training College at her home Visit of Bertram Hawker to SA. LSM speaks on history of the KU	Advertiser Tues 8 Feb p. 8 Refresher Course Advertiser Fri 28 Apr p. 8 Advertiser Thur May 5 p. 12 Kindergarten Bridge Party News, Tues 29 Nov p. 9 Presentation Advertiser Thus 8 Dec p. 6 Union Founder at Ceremony
1939	80	16 th Feb thanks visiting speaker from Perth Presents secretary Doris Beeston with cheque 'from the various committees' on her departure for studies in UK Describes LSM's involvement in purchase of land for original Bowden kindergarten for 50 pounds. LSM describes opening of Bowden Kindy. Election of officers- LSM still a VP and still on Executive Committee	Advertiser Thus 16 Feb p. 7 Parent problems Advertiser Sat 11 March p. Farewell Party at St Corantyn Advertiser 15 March p.8 Women's news and views Advertiser Sat 28 Oct p. 17 Help Needed for Kindergarten
1940	81	Writes introduction for new monthly KU news bulletin	Advertiser Tue 20 March 1940 p. 8 Kindergarten Union Publication

- 1940 82 Opens fundraiser for Clayton kindergarten Advertiser Tue 19 Mar 1940 p. 8
Gift Tea
Opens fete for Hackney Kindergarten Advertiser Tues 25 Jun 1940 p. 15 Plans and Parties
Welcomes guests to LM Kindergarten on opening new room specially for 2 year olds The News Thu 17 Oct 1940 p.7
Nursery Schoolroom dedicated
AGM October 28 1940 LSM remains on executive committee and education committee and in addition Advertiser Wed Oct 29 p. 7 Fine
work for SA Children
is member of a new 'organising' committee.
Urges that names of kindergarten directors of the Advertiser Sat 14 Dec 1940 p.
past should be recorded at their former kindergarten, 14 Lady Bonython Entertains
as "recognition of gratitude and respect."
- 1941 83 LSM pays tribute to Miss Beeston, recently deceased Advertiser Sat 1 Feb 1941 p. 16
in torpedoed ship. Doris Beeston Memorial
Article makes clear that LSM did all the secretarial work without payment till Doris Beeston appointed 1945 [ie nearly 20 years]
makes speech at memorial in her honour
LSM is photographed with Minister and also Advertiser Sat 9 July 1941 p. 2
Director of Education and President of KU at this Opening of Doris Beeston
opening ceremony. Memorial Building
No record of election of officers in 1941.
- 1942 84 Mentions that KU President has called AGM to be held at Lucy Morice Kindergarten on Mon Oct 26th News Thurs 8 Oct 1942
No record of election of officers in 1942.
Lady Bonython, Lady Gowrie and LSM present at presentation of a clock at the new kindergarten Tues 10 Nov 1942 p. 5 Doris
Beeston Memorial Clock
- 1943 85 Death of husband Mr J.P. Morice
No record of election of officers in 1943.
- 1944 86 85th birthday greetings News. Wed 1st March 1944 p. 5
Children and staff of the Kindergarten Training 85th birthday greetings
College visited LSM at home
- 1945 87 40th AGM of KU. Mrs Morice not present but article News Thur 1 Nov 1945 p. 7 In
notes that "she will open the fete arranged by the Town Today
mothers' club at the [Lucy Morice Free]
kindergarten on Saturday afternoon.
Election of officers- LSM still noted as a VP in this year's election Advertiser Thu 1 Nov p. 3. Need
to replace wartime centres.
- 1946 88 "Mother of Kindergartens" Advertiser Wed 30 Oct 1946 p. 5
"When the history of the KU is written it will reveal The Mother of Kindergartens
the debt that the community owes to Mrs Morice and her coworkers."
"In the annals of this State, the name of Lucy Morice, which is perpetuated in the kindergarten that bears it and that will celebrate its 21st birthday next Wednesday, is worthy of a place alongside her distinguished kinswoman..."
The Lucy Morice Free kindergarten is 21 and LSM Advertiser Thurs 7 Nov 1946 p. 7 Kindergarten celebrates
is photographed cutting the cake coming-of-age

Lady Bonython pays special tribute to work of LSM Advertiser Thu 7 Nov p. 7 for the KU. "Thanking Mrs. Morice for the help that Kindergarten's 21st birthday she had always given to the union, and the deep interest she had maintained in the movement."

1947 89

No record

1948 90

No record

1949- 91

No record

50

1951 92

Obituaries

Until a few years ago Mrs. Lucy Morice, whose death occurred on Sunday at the great age of 92, maintained a keen interest in the work of the kindergarten movement in SA, in the foundation of which, in 1905, she was actively associated with the Rev. Bertram Hawker.

As might have been expected of a niece of Catherine Helen Spence, Mrs. Morice was deeply interested in public welfare, and she was a leader in many movements which left their imprint on the life of South Australia.

Her work for the kindergartens was honored by the only life membership awarded by the Kindergarten Union, and her name is perpetuated in the Lucy Morice Kindergarten in North Adelaide.

Advertiser Wed 13 June 1951 p. 2

and

Advertiser FRI 15 June 1951 p. 11 Roundabout

LUCY MORICE PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Excerpt from KUSA Minutes of Meeting held on 19 November, 1934 [available State Archives of SA]

McMorice The Secretary reported that enquiries had been made in recognition of the services of Mrs Morice being made through the Government, and the matter taken in hand.

2. Mrs Morice made Life Member. Minutes of KUSA executive, 16 September 1930

and confirmed.

Executive Annual Report following the reading of the Annual Report of the Executive Committee which was submitted for approval by the Secretary, Mrs S. G. Hibbe eulogised the work and services of our Hon. Org Sec Mrs J. P. Morice who had been connected with the Kindergarten Union since its inception 25 years ago, and as a mark of esteem on behalf of the Committee had pleasure in nominating her an Honorary Life Member of the Union. Mrs J. P. Morice

Mrs D. H. Hollidge in seconding this proposal gave further praise of Mrs Morice's loyalty to the Kindergarten movement.

The proposal was put to the meeting by Mrs J. Livingston Boulton and was carried unanimously with acclamation.

The adoption of the Annual Report, including mention of this honour, was then moved by Mrs S. G. Hibbe, and seconded by Mrs H. Lamm.

Minutes of KUSA Executive Tues 20 September 1932- Mrs Morice relinquishes role as Hon. Organising Secretary- voted Life Member, Mrs Morice remains on Education Committee

Directs. among 9.11
production - to date no reply had been received.

Finance The Financial Statement was read and adopted and accounts passed for payment.
Interest due Bowden 9.7.6 K. Sh. 1.16.3 L.N.A 10/-
Admission of £5 had been received from the Grey Ward Mothers Club.
Mr. H. Samuel had returned out of night of way at College from £5 to £4 per week.

Executive Annual Report.

Mrs Hubbs moved seconded by Mrs L. B. Bell that the Annual Executive report as read by the Secretary, with the inclusion of paragraph in Mrs J. P. Morice, be adopted, and printed for the Annual meeting. carried.

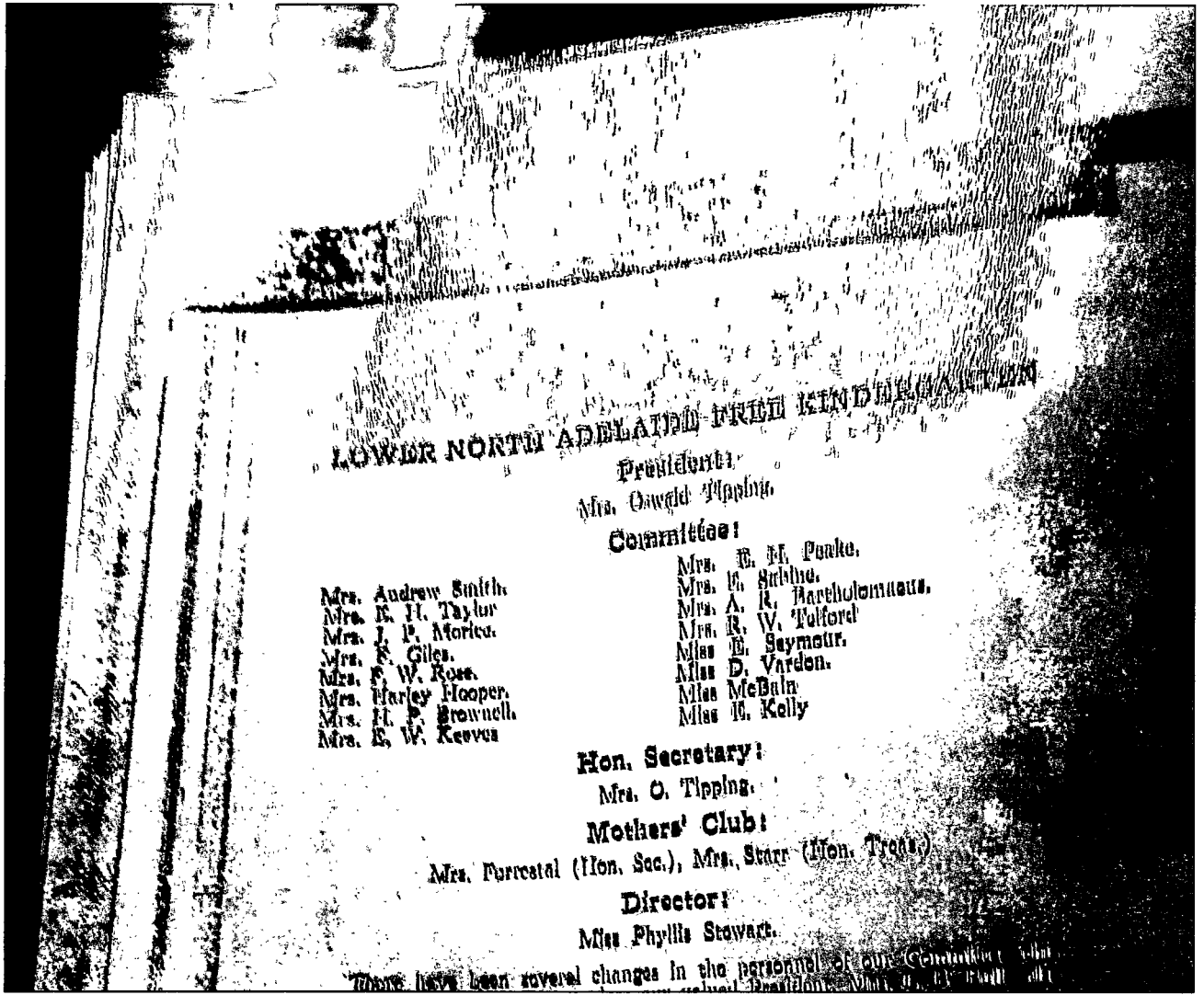
Mrs J. P. Morice wished to relinquish the position of Hon. Organising Secretary and as a mark of appreciation for her many years service to the Kindergarten Union she was elected a Vice President. Mrs Morice is still Hon. Secretary of the Education Committee.

Annual Meeting.

It was decided to hold the Annual Meeting of the Kindergarten Union on Tuesday 18th October - application to be made for the use of the Banqueting Room in the Adelaide Town Hall for a business meeting. Suggested time 4.30 pm preceded by Executive meeting at

Connections between LSM and Lower North Adelaide Kindergarten

1. LSM listed as being on the LNAK committee in 1930



February 1935- Lucy Morice is one of those delegated from KUSA committee to work with LNAK branch committee to seek an architect.

The Executive and a sub. Committee was elected to deal with the matter — M^{rs} J. R. Broughton, M^{rs} G. P. Morice Miss King Miss Burgess the Secretary to act in conjunction with the Sub. Committee of the Lower N. A. Committee. This was moved by M^{rs} J. H. Hammond and seconded by M^{rs} Howard Burgess carried.

The Secretary reported that in the matter of an Hon. Architect, M^{rs} Howard Burgess had spoken to M^{rs} Claidge, and an appointment had been made to interview M^{rs} Claidge at 2:15 p. m. this afternoon. In the event of an Hon. Architect not being appointed, the matter was referred to the Branch Committee to select their own Architect. A letter from the Secretary, Miss E. Kelly, asking for permission to launch a publicity campaign in connection with the proposed new building was read — M^{rs} S. M. Gregor Reid moved seconded by M^{rs} F. W. Fillmore that sanction be given to this request.

3. Top: SLSA Photo B6811, two barefoot boys outside the Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten, 1936

Bottom: The Sussex Street Facade, September 2024



B 6811





1935
THE TUCY MORRICE FREE KINDERGARTEN

DANGER
FRAGILE ROOFING
USE
CRAWL BOARDS



Other exterior photographs, September 2024-crazy pave verandah and brick work around the main entrance.







Informational board with photos and text:

Child Protection It's Everybody's Business

Child Protection is a service that helps protect children from harm. It is a multi-agency service involving the police, health services, education, and social services.

Child Protection is a service that helps protect children from harm. It is a multi-agency service involving the police, health services, education, and social services.

Child Protection is a service that helps protect children from harm. It is a multi-agency service involving the police, health services, education, and social services.

Handwritten notice on a whiteboard:

Thank you for your support in the recent fundraising event. The latest newsletter has been emailed to you. If you have not received it, please contact the office. All children will have a special day and we look forward to seeing you at the event.



Parapet brick banding



GAARTIEN

DANGER
FRAGILE ROOFING
USE
CRAWL BOARDS



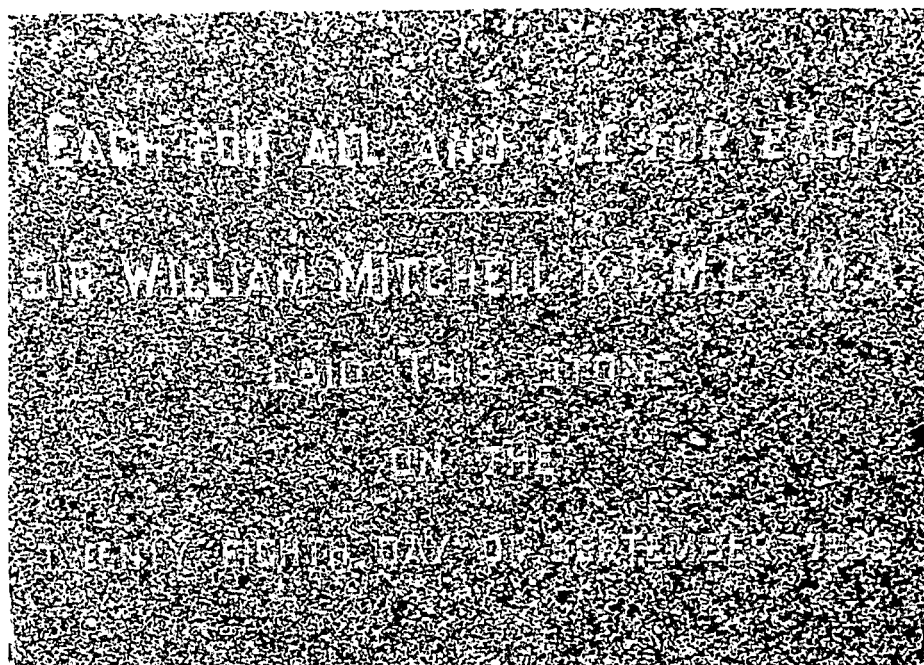
Interior photographs, September 2024







Foundation Stone, 1935, photographed September 2024





LUCY SPENCE MORICE: 'MOTHER OF KINDERGARTENS' IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA


University of South Australia

Existing histories of the free kindergarten movement in South Australia¹ scantily acknowledge the key role of Lucy Spence Morice in helping to found the Kindergarten Union (KUSA) in 1905 and subsequently guiding the organisation through financially troubled times, internal conflict with respect to the independence of the Training College (Adelaide KTC) from Education Department control, changes of directorship, and in accordance with its original mission. This article seeks to restore Lucy Spence Morice to a place in South Australian annals alongside that of her distinguished aunt Catherine Helen Spence: teacher, journalist, author, Unitarian Church preacher, philanthropist, political and social reformer, self-styled 'new woman' of the late nineteenth century, and to niece Lucy a dear friend, mentor and inspirational role model. In the light of fresh evidence contained in the papers of Mrs Marjorie Caw (an early KTC graduate), and informed by the work of Caine, Lewis, Ryan, and Goodman and Harrop most especially,² it re-assesses Mrs Morice's contribution to kindergarten reform from a feminist revisionist historical perspective. I utilise biographical methods and network analysis in order to point up the genesis of Lucy's zeal for the cause of kindergarten education; also to argue that her informal but expansive social ties, plus her links to professional women and other activists in the fields of child health, welfare and education were central to her work for the Kindergarten Union.

Surrounded by fine and enriching influences in her early life, Mrs Morice is not a sympathiser merely on the surface

(Louise) Lucy Spence Morice, daughter of John Brodie Spence (E.S.&A. Bank manager, M.P.) and his wife Jessie, was born in Adelaide on 1 March 1859. Brought up 'in the broadest possible way' in the Unitarian Church rather than the orthodox Presbyterianism of her Scottish forebears, Lucy was educated in private schools. In the summer quarter when the Spences resided at Glenelg she attended 'the most absurd educational establishment where the girls of the first families learnt to read, write and do sums', conducted by Mrs Forsyth, 'an ancient Scottish lady' whose pedagogical approach involved the use of Dr Brewer's *Guides to Knowledge* - 'questions and answers to be memorised'. Whilst living at the E.S. & A. Bank city branch in winter, though, Lucy appreciated the 'most intelligent teaching of English and French' by the 'quite unconventional' Miss Annie Montgomerie Martin at her progressive school for girls, mainly from Unitarian and other non-

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- 1 Major works include H. Jones, 'The Acceptable Crusader: Lillian de Lissa and pre-school education in South Australia', in S. Murray Smith (ed.), *Melbourne Studies in Education 1975*, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1975; H. Jones (ed.), *Jubilee History of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia 1905-1955*, Adelaide, KUSA, 1975; C. Dowd, *Adelaide Kindergarten Teachers College: a history, 1907-1974*, Adelaide, SACAE, 1983; J. Carmichael, *For South Australia's Children: a history of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia 1905-1985*, Adelaide, The Jean Denton Memorial and Lillian de Lissa Scholarships Committee, 2002.
 - 2 B. Caine, 'Feminist biography and feminist history', *Women's History Review*, vol. 2, no. 2, 1974; J. Lewis, *Women in social action in Victorian and Edwardian England*, Aldershot, Edwin Elgar, 1990; M. Ryan, 'The power of women's networks', in J.L. Newton, M.P. Ryan and J.R. Walkowitz (eds), *Sex and class in women's history*, London, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1983; J. Goodman and S. Harrop (eds), *Women, educational policy-making and administration in England: authoritative women since 1800*, London and New York, Routledge, 2000.

conformist families, in Pulteney Street, Adelaide.³ Here it is important to note that Unitarians like the Spences and Miss Martin, whom Lucy regarded as a significant figure in her early life, were an intellectual elite in colonial Adelaide. Prominent in discussions of contemporary issues and at the forefront of social reform, subscribers represented every shade of political opinion for the Church's principal appeal to well-educated people of substantial means lay in its emphasis on rationality and, in the tradition of nineteenth-century liberalism, the right to individual conscience and independent conviction. A member of the Suffrage League deputation to the Premier in 1891, Annie Martin was also active in the (short-lived) Woman's League which Lucy initiated in July 1895 with a view to educating recently-enfranchised South Australian women 'socially and politically ... apart from all considerations of class and party, and to interest ourselves specially in questions relating to women and children'.⁴

The young Lucy Spence was surrounded by fine and enriching influences at home too. 'To have had Catherine Helen Spence for my aunt', she enthused, 'was indeed wonderfully good fortune, and added to that my beloved parents, John and Jessie Spence, both of them intelligent, educated, liberal and over-flowing with kindness'.⁵ Her 'Auntie Kate' Lucy described as:

my dearest friend and kinswoman who always knew me and gave without stint, not affection only but sympathy, understanding, wise counsel and inspiration. ... [S]he was a wonderful personality and to have known her was [in itself] a liberal education. ... She had such a generosity of mind and such marvellous knowledge stored up.⁶

Lucy further recalls that on her regular Sunday visits after church Miss Spence always brought a sheaf of letters from world-wide correspondents to discuss with her favourite brother. 'I was the only one of the clan (second-generation) who cared for any of the things which so vitally interested her and my father', Lucy averred: 'Socialism, Single Tax, Proportional Representation, Communism ... all phases of religious thought and philosophy ... everything for the furtherance of human happiness and well being she studied earnestly, and all schemes for betterment and reform had her attention'.⁷ Thus, even in her 'carefree days' Lucy was 'not without a sense that there were more interesting and dignified employments in life than ribbon work and gossip, and for this I was indebted to my kinswoman Catherine Helen Spence [whose] motto was "Everything human can be improved"'.⁸

As Jones summarises, the bond between Lucy and her Auntie Kate (even stronger after John Spence's death in 1902) was based on strong family ties, their shared Unitarian faith, many mutual friends, a deep love of reading, and years of co-operation in working for social justice, especially

3 Auntie Kate - Catherine Helen Spence. Reminiscences of her niece, Mrs Lucy Spence Morice (typescript, n.d.), pp. 1-2, Mortlock Library of South Australiana (MLSA), PRG88/18; S. Eade, summary of transcript of tape recording made at Mrs Caw's flat with Mrs Beckwith, Mrs Moore and Mr Kirby re the Unitarian Christian Church and its subscribers in 1870s Adelaide, Edith Hübbe (Cook) and Marjorie Caw (Hübbe) papers 1859-1988, Barr Smith Library (BSL) Special Collections, MSS0046/47/4.

4 Woman's League Minute Books 1895-1897, MLSA, SRG690. See especially vol. 2, 'Objects' and L. S. Morice, The Woman's League (condensed copy of report presented to the League's first meeting showing the aims and scope of its operations).

5 Auntie Kate, p. 2.

6 Lucy Morice to Rose Scott (founder of the Women's Political Education League in NSW), 12 April 1910, Mitchell Library, Sydney, Rose Scott correspondence, A2278; L. S. Morice, biographical notes on C. H. Spence, p. 16, MLSA, PRG88/19; 'Our Adelaide Women of Interest. Play spirit in education. A chat with Mrs Morice', *Daily Herald*, 28 June 1913, Magazine section, p. 13.

7 PRG88/18, p. 7; PRG88/19, pp. 1-3.

8 'About Catherine Spence. Lighter side of a leader's life. Told by Lucy Morice' (newspaper clipping, n.d.), Papers re Catherine Helen Spence, BSL, MSS0046/47/4.

for women and children, from mid-1895 until C. H. Spence died on 3 April 1910.⁹ Lucy's own niece, Anne Wainwright, claims that Lucy's tribute to C. H. Spence is self-revealing of her character; Jones' description is of a woman more passionate and impulsive than her aunt, equally dedicated to righting social wrongs but whose energy for some years was directed to her family. Lucy Spence married Englishman James Percy Morice (Parliamentary Librarian and from 1901 Parliamentary Clerk) at a Unitarian service in her father's home, 'Fenton', Glenelg, on 20 March 1886, thereafter turning to Socialism and the Anglican Church. In 1892 she gave birth to a son, (John) Patrick Spence Morice, and some time later a daughter who died shortly after being delivered by a mid-wife whose 'unprofessional, unhygienic ways' almost caused Mrs Morice's death too. Only the intervention of her neighbour and close friend Joanna, wife of the wealthy businessman and philanthropist Robert Barr Smith, saved Lucy's life.

In the broader context of early twentieth century concern about the high rate of infant mortality, this birthing experience combined with Lucy's compassion for all children furnished a personal motive for her joining the Puericulture Committee of the British Science Guild SA Branch, which repeatedly lobbied Parliament in the 1910s for implementation of its recommendations on infant nurture, maternal education, early notification of births and the registration of mid-wives. Also to found the Adelaide School for Mothers with Dr Helen Mayo (an Adelaide medical graduate and fellow Science Guild member) in 1909, and as the Institute's first president to campaign against high infant mortality rates.¹⁰ The actual work and implementation of policy with respect to the School for Mothers lay mainly with Helen Mayo and Miss Harriet Stirling, a member of the State Children's Council (along with C. H. Spence). Both women were foundation members of the Women's Non-Party Political Association (WNPPA) which Lucy founded in July 1909 on the advice of Victorian feminist and long-time friend Vida Goldstein; both also became involved with Mrs Morice in the free kindergarten movement – as did a number of their associates in this organised feminist network.

Meanwhile, freed by domestic help and with her husband James sharing her passion for modern literature and for delving deeply into the reason of existing social conditions, a middle-aged Lucy Morice embarked upon a range of other social and educational reform projects as befitted the enfranchised, cultured, intellectual woman possessed of a highly developed social conscience and a wide-awake, vital interest in the foremost questions of the day that she typified. As Lucy tells it, following the demise in April 1897 of her first public venture, the Woman's League, there was 'The Social Students' over which Miss Spence presided: 'a very small, insignificant body of no practical importance, just enquiring into things'.¹¹ Next came the Working Women's Co-operative Clothing Company (whose factory opened in February 1902), of which Lucy was a 'housewife' member, her aunt's successor as Board chairman in 1910, and liquidator in February 1913 when notices of

9 H. Jones, 'Lucy Spence Morice and Catherine Helen Spence: partners in South Australian social reform', *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia (JHSSA)*, no. 11, 1983, pp. 48-64. See also H. Jones, *Nothing Seemed Impossible: women's education and social change in South Australia 1875-1915*, Brisbane, University of Queensland Press, 1985, pp. 109, 119-20, 123-26, 164-80.

10 For details of Lucy Morice's involvement with Helen Mayo and Harriet Stirling of the State Children's Council in early twentieth century puericulture reform, see Jones, *In Her Own Name: women in South Australian history*, Adelaide, Wakefield Press, 1986, pp. 166-7; British Science Guild SA Branch, Annual Reports 1914-24 and 'Race Building. Science Guild's great work. No. 1' (report of sub-committee on Puericulture or Infant Nurture), Adelaide, 1916, State Library of South Australia (SLSA); 'Care for the child. Deputation to Chief Secretary. Better legislation asked for', *Register*, 2 April 1914, p. 16; 'Caring for infant life. Deputation to the Premier', *Register*, 5 October 1915, p. 8; Helen Mayo papers, MLSA, PRG126/6; Adelaide School for Mothers, Annual reports, vol. 1 (1909-11), SRG199/2 and School for Mothers Minute Books (1909-13), SRG119/1/1, MLSA; Address by Mrs Morice to the Mothers' Union (typescript, n.d.), BSL, MSS0046/47.
Note: The birth of Lucy and James Morice's daughter was not officially recorded.

11 Auntie Kate, p. 4.

winding up the company were issued. Mrs Morice was also an active honorary member of the Women Employees' Mutual Association, having joined the United Trades and Labour Council committee in 1905 to form this new union. Additionally she was a member of the Theosophical Society, served on the board of the Adelaide Literary Theatre in 1911-12, and held salon afternoons for 'interesting persons' of different intellectual persuasions. The Morices were otherwise "at home" to a steady stream of visitors from across the whole social spectrum, 'from goal birds to Bishops', for to Mrs Morice 'social barriers did not exist. She sincerely and deeply was interested in every human being with whom she had contact'.¹² Lucy thus moved in varied circles: she had connections with women unionists and via her aunt with feminist activists everywhere, yet also attended Government House functions and was best friends with philanthropist Joanna Barr Smith (née Elder, whose brother Thomas and husband Robert were partners in a leading mercantile and pastoral firm). Through her father (a former parliamentarian) and her husband, by virtue of his work and membership of the exclusive, male-only Adelaide Club, she was ideally placed to gain intimate knowledge of South Australian political affairs and to use their social connections with "men of influence". C. H. Spence's journalism contacts likewise proved beneficial to Lucy's reformist endeavours.

Jones argues that such personal contacts were important in effecting social and educational reform, and that the likes of Lucy Morice and her associates, already in the vanguard of the post-suffrage women's movement, exerted an even more powerful influence in the relatively small, close-knit Adelaide community once they were conjoined in the WNPPA (more commonly known as the Women's Non-Party and later re-named the League of Women Voters). Lucy succeeded her aunt as president of this feminist organisation which took practical and successful steps to educate citizens and thereby stimulate legislative and administrative reform in numerous areas affecting women and children. Working in separate committees, this articulate, well-educated group with delegates from all other women's associations in Adelaide generated pressure on politicians for social change through lobbying (by deputation, petition and letter), newspaper publicity, and networking with feminists in other States and internationally.¹³

With much of the WNPPA's work being focused upon the education, health and welfare of "the child as a future citizen", strong personal links existed between the Association and the Kindergarten Union of which Lucy Morice was Organising Secretary. For example, Lucy pressed KU Director and KTC Principal Lillian de Lissa into service on the foundation council of the WNPPA and into addressing the membership on the subject of Kindergarten while she herself spoke on new educational ideas and the Science Guild's efforts to effect puericulture reform. The Franklin Street Free Kindergarten was used for early School for Mothers meetings; Helen Mayo acted as both medical officer to the kindergarten children and unpaid lecturer in hygiene, ambulance and first aid at KTC until November 1910. Leading headmistresses and teachers within the Women's Non-Party were nominated by Mrs Morice to serve with her on the KU Education Committee, and so the list goes on. Indeed, as the next section of this article reveals, Lucy exploited her feminist and other social connections to the full in advancing the cause of Kindergarten in South Australia, for in a life dedicated to varied forms of philanthropic social service this was her dearest work.

In 1936, aged seventy-seven but still a very active member of the KU Executive and "godmother" to a newly-opened kindergarten named in her honour, Lucy Spence Morice was

12 A. Walnwright, A tribute to Lucy Spence Morice, Adelaide, 1962, pp. 5, 10, KTC Archives, University of South Australia.

13 Jones, 'Lucy Spence Morice and Catherine Helen Spence', no. 11, pp. 58-61; 'Women's Non-Party Political Association' (officers, objects, platform), *Herald*, 11 September 1911; WNPPA, Minutes of meetings, July 1909-October 1922, MILSA, SRG116/1/1-2; 'A chat with Mrs Morice'; Auntie Kate, p. 5.

awarded a M.B.E. A journalist remarked on this occasion:

To a wide circle she is an inspiring and delightful leader – endlessly sympathetic to youth and as devoted to new ideas as most people are to old. No official account of her educational work can do justice to its personal quality.¹⁴

A decade later another celebratory newspaper article stated: 'It is not given to many women to live to see the seed they helped to plant in the life of the community grow to such rich bearing as has been the experience of Mrs J. P. Morice, "mother of the kindergartens" as she is affectionately known to those aware of the part she played in the establishment of the movement in South Australia'.¹⁵ For doing what, more specifically, did Lucy earn this appellation and such accolades?

An inspiring leader, Mrs Morice has from the earliest days 'mothered' the kindergarten movement here

The formation and work of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia was neither an overtly feminist nor an exclusively female enterprise: men and women together launched the movement and men continued to be closely involved with the organisation throughout the first decades of its existence, especially in policy and financial matters. By the same token, the main protagonists in the 1909-10 battle to retain KUSA's jurisdiction over kindergarten teacher training were split along gender lines, Lucy Morice having run-ins with a number of male Executive members over the issue. For, in her prime (she turned fifty years of age in 1909), Lucy was 'a plump motherly figure, determined, sure and energetic, [whose] bluntness was sometimes browbeating, her impatience with those whose vision was not as great as hers sometimes tactless'.¹⁶ Then again Mr Morice ably supported his wife as the Union moved strongly forward under her relentless but inspiring (de facto) leadership through several changes of KU director/KTC principal.

Bertram Hawker introduced kindergarten to South Australia after returning from a visit to Sydney deeply impressed by the transformation of street urchins into responsive, orderly, happy children at the Woolloomooloo Free Kindergarten.¹⁷ His interest in working class child welfare and in kindergarten as an instrument of social reform, Dowd suggests, likely stemmed from conversations with his brother Edward, a member of the State Children's Council like C. H. Spence who had previously visited the kindergarten at Woolloomooloo and was similarly impressed by the work of Chicago-trained Frances Newton, Principal of Sydney KTC. For her part, Lucy Morice helped Mr and Mrs Hawker to organise the September 1905 kindergarten demonstrations given by Newton and her most promising student Lillian de Lissa in Adelaide, which attracted large audiences and received extensive press coverage – probably secured through Miss Spence's journalism contacts. Already a student of the New Education then sweeping the Western world, including Froebel's philosophy, Lucy saw 'the living thing' for the first time in these demonstrations and upon writing to thank the Hawkers was asked to become secretary of the movement they were determined to establish. She thus attended the meeting of interested parties held on 26 September 1905 to consider the proposed formation of a kindergarten union and establishment of free kindergartens in the poorest parts of the city; also to discuss funding for an initiative that Lucy regarded as 'not a charity but a far-reaching educational reform, a regenerating factor which brings love and order and beauty into the lives and homes of the people, a spiritual force helping to build securely the future of

14 'Educationist honoured' (1936), newspaper cuttings re Lucy Morice, MSS0046/47/4.

15 'The Mother of the Kindertartens', *Advertiser*, 30 October 1946.

16 E.J. Prest, 'KTC and the administration of the Union', *KUSA Jubilee History*, p. 60.

17 'Hawker, Bertram Robert (1868-1952)' in J. Richie (gen. ed.), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol. 14, Melbourne, Melbourne University Press, 1996, pp. 410-11; Jones, 'The Acceptable Crusader', pp. 127-9; Dowd, *Adelaide Kindergarten Teachers College*, pp. 4, 12-14.

the Commonwealth'.¹⁸

At the aforementioned meeting, although favouring co-operation with the Education Department, Frances Newton spoke against state intervention in the work of kindergartning. Her argument that bureaucratic control was inimical to the true spirit of kindergarten was deployed by de Lissa several years later in opposing Director of Education Alfred Williams' proposal to transfer kindergarten teacher training to the University Training College, and again in her evidence to the Royal Commission on Education whose final report in 1913 vindicated the stance she and Lucy Morice adopted from the outset with regard to the independence of KUSA and KTC. Meanwhile, prior to the Union's inaugural meeting on 5 November 1905, kindergarten advocates – Mr Hawker, Mrs Morice and Miss Spence foremost among them – built support for future action, conversing with influential people, explaining what kindergarten was to the public, and securing from the Government an assurance of financial assistance. The Union's operations were otherwise to depend on membership subscriptions, fund-raising and private benevolence. In the ensuing struggle to educate the community as to the vital importance of the Union's work and solicit funds, Mrs Morice played a central role and in characteristic fashion was supported by her aunt. As Lucy reported following C. H. Spence's death in April 1910:

She was the very first subscriber to the Union and one of the first Vice-Presidents, who never missed a meeting at which she could by any possibility be present. She spoke for the work, and wrote for it, and her help and influence is sadly missed.¹⁹

Lucy and her Auntie Kate, partners in so many other areas of social reform but now focused on the fledgling kindergarten movement, were members of the KU deputation which approached the Premier and Minister of Education, Thomas Price, on 22 December 1906 for an increase in the government grant in order to establish a training college. (KTC opened in February 1907.) Beyond that, if not also for Lucy's recruitment of new subscribers in her capacity as Organising Secretary, plus her social connections with vice-regal patrons and wealthy philanthropists like the Barr-Smiths who funded much of the College's growth, it is doubtful whether the organisation would have survived the recurring financial crises it faced.

Having donated £100 to get KUSA's work started, Hawker's ongoing benevolence was crucial to the movement's survival and expansion. As the Union's 16th annual report stated:

Bertram Hawker, one of those chiefly concerned with the formation of Kindergartens in this State, has now resided in England for many years but continues to take a practical interest in the work here. He is our largest subscriber; £50 used to come every year and now, in spite of the state of English finances, he regularly sends £30. We feel that some of our South Australian wealthy men might well follow his example.²⁰

An extra £500 was forwarded in 1913: £100 towards the Union's building fund and £400 to defray the costs of de Lissa's travel to Rome to study under Maria Montessori, followed by a commissioned educational tour of Europe, the USA and England, where Lillian gave the opening paper at the Montessori conference organised by Hawker at his East Runton home in July 1914. Lucy Morice maintained a life-long correspondence with Hawker, and with de Lissa after Lillian left Adelaide in March 1917 to take charge of Gipsy Hill kindergarten-nursery training college, visiting both of them in 1920 when she took a year's leave of absence, armed with an honorary commission, 'to see

18 'The mother of the kindergartens'; KUSA Annual Reports, 1906-07, p. 5 and 1909-10, p. 3 and 1911-12, p. 8, State Records of South Australia (SRSA), GRG69/17.

19 KUSA 5th Annual Report, p. 3. A good example of Miss Spence's journalism in support of Hawker's activities in initiating the movement is her article 'Kindergarten to University (No. 1)', *Register*, 30 October 1905, p. 6.

20 KUSA Report for 1920-21, p. 6.

something of educational matters in England and Rome'.²¹ By means of this overseas sojourn and interstate visits to view 'experiments in education', her network of correspondents, and the modern literature in the fields of social work, education, history and philosophy she avidly read, Lucy kept abreast of the latest kindergarten and child welfare developments abroad and in Australia – feeding what she learnt into KU policy deliberations and the course of history of education lectures she gave to second-year KTC students in 1908-25, which according to de Lissa 'she made a good line of hooks on which to hang her many ideas and ideals of education'.²²

Leading by personal example in prevailing upon other philanthropists in her social circle to supplement the annual government grant by donating money to the Kindergarten Union, Lucy's contribution helped to acquire a cottage adjoining the Franklin Street Free Kindergarten in January 1907 to accommodate the Union's teacher training branch. She subsequently gave £50 to retain Bowden Kindergarten land as a playground for the children as well as £500 towards the purchase of land and erection of the kindergarten which bears her name. As a result of their close friendship, in 1912 Joanna Barr Smith sent Lucy a cheque for £100 'to be spent in saving fatigue and overwork of Miss de Lissa and herself', and another £100 in 1913 towards the rent of Strathearn residential kindergarten college before KTC's eventual removal in 1915 to a large house in Palmer Place, North Adelaide - again courtesy of the Barr Smiths' generosity. (In the interim college classes were temporarily conducted in de Lissa's cottage at the rear of the Morices' North Adelaide home and other rented premises.) Lucy's further material support for KUSA's early work included her donation of fittings for the Franklin Street Kindergarten, books for the KTC library, gifts for the student residential house, goods for fund-raising jumble sales, and much more. It was impossible to enumerate the details of her thoughtfulness regarding the work of kindergartens and kindergartners, the Union Executive reported in 1917. She was likewise always thinking of things she could do for the Training College, said the joint principals in their 1925 report.

Lucy also endeavoured to garner wider community support for Kindergarten by means of the press interviews she gave, leaflets distributed in conjunction with kindergarten demonstrations before the public and during de Lissa's 1912 lecture tour of country towns, special appeals, and the sending out of collectors in quest of subscriptions. Meanwhile she exhorted those directly involved in the movement to make personal sacrifices 'for the sake of the work'. Devotion, loyalty and service were required of them all, Lucy reiterated in her annual reports, again leading by personal example. For, in addition to the savings consequent upon her honorary lectureship in history of education, until 1923 all secretarial and administrative work for the Union was done voluntarily, 'the bulk of which fell on her shoulders and was of inestimable value in keeping costs down'.²³ In such work and on the finance front, James Morice assisted his wife as KU Treasurer in 1913-20, General Secretary 1914-20, Minute Secretary in 1921-22 (when Lucy temporarily resumed general secretarial duties),

21 J.P. Morice, KUSA Secretary, request that an Honorary Commission on Education be issued to Mrs Morice, 8 January 1920, SRSA, Education Department correspondence files, GRG19/1/1920/10. See also Mrs Morice's talk on Experiments in Education, describing innovative schools and kindergartens she visited in NSW and Melbourne, de Lissa's current work in London, and the establishment in England of a children's community 'on most modern lines' for children orphaned by the war, Minutes of 139th WNPPA meeting, 20 November 1918, SRG116/1, p. 226.

22 Talks given by Lillian de Lissa at the Golden Jubilee of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia, 1955, p. 10, MLSA, de Lissa papers, PRG253/10.

23 *KUSA Jubilee History*, p. 76. See also KUSA Annual Reports, 1911-12, p. 8 and 1912-13, p. 5 and 1918-19, p. 3; 'Kindergartens. Training the babies. Sidelines on the work. The troubles of the early days. More money needed', *Advertiser*, 23 November 1912, p. 6; leaflet: KUSA. Demonstration of Kindergarten, Montessori & Primary Work. Exhibition Building, 16-17 June 1925, Adelaide, R. M. Osborn (printer) and 'The kindergarten and the community. Every school a social centre (by L. S. Morice)', *Register*, 25 September 1929, SRSA, GRG69/26, box 4; 'Kindergarten Union's great work', *Advertiser*, 24 September 1935.

and a Finance Committee member until the mid-1930s. (He was also one of two trustees, 1922-37.) As a Central Executive Committee member he reportedly helped the Union 'in numerous ways, by writing special letters and with advice on knotty problems, and with counsel in matters where his knowledge of the past enables him to clearly understand the situation'.²⁴ There are also multiple references to Mrs Morice's help and advice in policy deliberations, not least as a member of the new Organising Committee formed in 1940 'to watch the financial aspect and development of the Union', at which point she resigned from Executive Committee but was made a Life Vice-President of KUSA.²⁵

Indeed, Prest observes, Lucy Morice served at one time or another on every type of committee in the Union, the longevity of her involvement in its affairs giving KUSA's record a continuity it could not otherwise have had. Once freed from the tedious clerical work that her initial position as Minute/General Secretary entailed, on being appointed Hon. Organising Secretary (which office she held from October 1911 until 1932) Lucy became the 'galvanising figure' behind the Central Executive such that whilst she was on leave in 1920 the KU report for that year stated:

It was only when we had not Mrs Morice to turn to, in any and every difficulty, that we fully realised the large part she played in the Kindergarten world. We are glad to take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation of the splendid and devoted services that she has given to the Union ever since its inception.²⁶

KTC joint principals Amy Burgess and Dorothy King, who wrote this report in Lucy's absence, similarly commented in reference to her honorary secretaryship of KUSA's Education Committee and its predecessors (on which she served continuously from 1908 until the late 1940s):

It was realised that it would be extremely difficult to find anyone to fill Mrs Morice's place, and so at a special meeting of the Committee it was decided that Mrs Hübbe should act as Secretary ... and the remainder of the work be divided between Mr Morice and the Principals.

Dowd points out that Lucy acted as a practical link between Union and College by virtue of her secretarial offices in both, and that on Executive Committee she was often a communicator and proponent of de Lissa's views (identical to her own) in the counsels of the Union. This was particularly apparent in the twelve months from December 1909 to December 1910 when the kindergarten movement was deeply divided over the question of who should control the work of KTC.

As elaborated by Jones and Dowd, many Executive members, especially Professor Mitchell, were in favour of Director of Education Williams' proposal to transfer kindergarten teacher training operations to the Education Department while de Lissa and her 'guide, philosopher and friend' Mrs Morice were implacably opposed to any such take-over. Lucy's role in the matter was pivotal since Lillian was holidaying in Sydney when a special joint meeting of the College Council and KUSA Executive Committee was held on 7 December 1909 to consider Williams' scheme; and when the College Council met a week later to discuss the curriculum for kindergarten students in addition to formulating a resolution to be sent to the Central Executive. Lucy acted as a conduit between de Lissa, Mitchell, Williams and Executive Committee Chairman R.J. Hawkes in December 1909 through to February 1910 - their respective views being communicated to her by letter. The issue still not resolved six months on (perhaps deliberately on Lillian and Lucy's part while they took action behind the scenes to save KTC), the receipt by Executive Committee of de Lissa's alternative plan for training kindergarteners in August 1910 stimulated Hawkes to re-open negotiations with Williams.

24 KUSA Report for 1920-21, p. 3.

25 KUSA Report for 1939-40, p. 7 and 1940-41, p. 6.

26 KUSA Executive Report 1919-20, p. 3.

That ill-feeling ran high within the Union management on the eve of the October 14 KUSA annual general meeting at which the question was to be finally decided is evidenced by the disagreement between Hawkes and Mrs Morice over what should be printed in the annual report and Lucy's complaint of a vendetta against her by men on the Executive Committee (which Hawkes disclaimed).²⁷ Whilst the pro-Education Department faction had the numbers to carry Executive Committee policy at the October 14 meeting, with considerable ingenuity the opposing group managed to avoid a vote on William's proposal – likewise at the adjourned meeting which followed. Then, preceding the stormy public meeting of November 21, there ensued a complicated series of blocks and counter moves based on interpretations of the KUSA constitution. With his unrivalled knowledge of parliamentary procedure, James Morice was undoubtedly behind these stalling tactics while his wife set about hunting up new KU members 'by the dozens' to support de Lissa's policy of retaining the College. He certainly took an active part in noisy disagreements over procedural matters before the November 21 meeting in the Town Hall got underway, whereupon those in favour of Williams' scheme "did battle" with the 'resolute, aggressive and distinct party' which formed around de Lissa. Having again failed to reach agreement, this meeting resolved to refer the matter to the new executive that would be elected when the KU general meeting re-assembled for a third and last session on 28 November 1910. On this occasion, since most of the old committee did not stand for re-election, the persons nominated by Mr Morice were installed by virtue of new members' votes.²⁸ Thanks to the Morices' strategic action, Executive Committee was now composed largely of de Lissa supporters who consequently voted to retain Union control of kindergarten teacher training.

Moving quickly to formally retain the teacher training section as an integral part of the KU (it remained so until 1974), on 1 December 1910 the new Executive appointed a sub-committee that subsequently became a permanent part of the Union's structure, responsible for all purely educational matters as they affected both the College and the kindergartens. Besides de Lissa, the inaugural members of the Education Committee were Mrs Morice (Secretary), David Hollidge (Chairman), Mrs D. Murray Coghill from the now defunct College Council, plus Mrs Edith Hübbe (former headmistress of the Advanced School for Girls) and Archdeacon Charles Hornabrook – each of whom Lucy knew well. Having concurred with this committee's suggested amendments to the scheme that Williams submitted on 20 October 1910, Executive Committee conveyed its decision to him in February 1911. Education Committee members meanwhile resolved to continue seeking means by which a friendly relationship between the Education Department and the Kindergarten Union could be established.²⁹ Mrs Morice was still working towards such co-operation when aged in her eighties, writing in 1941 that she was 'trying to establish personal contact with Miss Wauchope

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- 27 For the spate of correspondence between Hawkes, de Lissa, Morice and Williams over the period 8 December 1909-12 December 1910, see KUSA Letterbook 1909-1910, pp. 33-94, 100, SRSA, GRG69/1, box 3; A. Williams, Director of Education to Mr Hawkes, 20 October 1910, GRG69/20/9. For discussion of the issue by the Training College Council of which Lucy Morice was Hon. Secretary, see KTC Minute Book 1909-38, minutes of special meetings called on 7 and 14 December 1909, GRG69/4.
- 28 For details of this year-long battle to maintain an independent existence for the Kindergarten Training College, see Dowd, pp. 40-54; Jones, 'The Acceptable Crusader', pp. 138-42. For newspaper accounts of the October 14 and two November meetings at which the issue was debated, see 'Kindergarten Union Annual Meeting', *Daily Herald*, 15 October 1910, p. 11; 'Kindergarten Union. A troubled meeting', *Herald*, 22 November 1910, p. 5; 'Disunited Union. Training kindergarten teachers. Lively meeting at the Town Hall. Education Department scarified', *Advertiser*, 22/11/1910, p. 9; 'Plain kindergarten talk. State training condemned. A spiritual atmosphere wanted', *Register*, 22/11/1910, p. 4; 'Kindergarten Union. New constitution adopted. Fresh executive appointed', *Register*, 29 November 1910, p. 8.
- 29 KUSA Executive Minutes, 16 December 1910 and Minutes of Education Committee meeting, 17 February 1911, GRG69/4; Williams to Hawkes, 20 October 1910, GRG69/20/9; KUSA Hon. Secretary to the Director of Education, 20 February 1911 (resolutions of the Educational Sub-Committee attached) and Williams' reply, 1 March 1911, inserted in KUSA Executive Minute Book 1908-12, GRG69/4.

who is in charge of the Kindergarten and Primary work at the Departmental Training College' and hoping at the same time that Bertram Hawker, over from England for a visit, would dedicate the new KTC building in Palmer Place. 'This he should do', she said:

as he was the founder and inspiration of the whole work – thanks to him and to Lillian KUSA began on a sound foundation of practical idealism and has carried on all along, developing and growing in methods but holding fast to its ideals – It is no small thing to have been pioneers in child welfare since 1905 undismayed and undaunted by criticism and opposition.³⁰

Here Lucy is also being self-referential as she shares her institutional memories of Kindergarten in South Australia with one of the first KTC graduates. For of the three founders (Hawker, de Lissa and herself) who set the standard of the service, she was the mainstay of the movement. Her own words tell a story of early struggle to overcome the popular misunderstanding of kindergarten as 'an institution erected by charitable, opulent people with the object of providing amusement for infant children of the plebian class' and the suspicion of those teaching under the regular educational code that too much play and too little real work was done in free kindergartens; criticism of the organisation's name as 'savouring too much of labour'; and general community apathy once the initial burst of 'tremendous interest in the experiment' subsided; not forgetting KUSA's perennial financial difficulties and the 'distractions' of World War One.³¹ She credits de Lissa's 'genius for organisation, her clear sight and strong brain' as being responsible for the strong and stable foundation upon which the structure of the College training and the work in kindergartens was built, announcing in the 1918-19 KUSA annual report that although the work had developed and altered in many respects: 'it has been a continual and orderly growth; never have we had to undo or pull down'. By the same token, upon Lillian's resignation from the Union in early 1917, a mature Lucy, confident of her own ability to carry on, asserted that: 'it is now probably better for us actually to be left to do our own growing. ... [W]e can do things for ourselves. We can organise and carry things through successfully'.³²

On leave from the Education Committee only in 1920 and in her "hospital years", Lucy Morice often took a leading role in the adjustments made to the College curriculum and extension of kindergarten work to include Sunday-school, Montessori, primary and nursery teacher training, KU supervision of children's public playgrounds in the City of Adelaide, and in the year-to-year business of staff appointments and salaries, college entrance requirements, student fees, examinations and graduation ceremonies. She also counselled each new intake of KTC students to:

strive for clarity of thought and distinguish carefully between the true and the false.

They should always be missionaries for the free kindergarten movement, to spread the knowledge that it was invaluable work, providing for the spiritual and mental needs of the children of the poor, and laying the foundations for citizenship.³³

At an interpersonal level, as "Eumenia" of the *Daily Herald* summarised the enthusiastic verdict of

30 May 1941, Letters from Lucy Morice to Marjorie Caw 1930-45, BSL, MSS0046/3.

31 'Kindergartens. ... The troubles of the early days', *Advertiser*, 23 November 1912; Secretary's report for 1914-15, KUSA 10th Annual Report, p. 3; 'The kindergarten and the community', *Register*, 25 September 1929; 'Kindergarten Union's great work', *Advertiser*, 24 September 1935; 'The mother of the kindergartens', *Advertiser*, 30 October 1946.

32 KUSA 14th Annual report, p. 3; KUSA Secretary's report for 1916-17, pp. 2-3.

33 'Kindergarten training begins' (newspaper clipping re opening day at the Montessori Kindergarten Training College, n.d.), MSS0047/47/4.

kindergartners in 1913:

Mrs Morice has from the earliest days "mothered" the kindergarten movement here. ... They speak with loving gratitude of the sure and unfailing help they always receive from her. Miss de Lissa and her directors [of free kindergartens] and [KTC] students realise what a tower of strength Mrs Morice has been and is as the Hon. Secretary of the Union, and to each one of them individually, through her generous and ever-ready sympathy and ... unselfish work for the interests of the children.³⁴

Other sources confirm that the predominantly youthful college community (the founding principal, students and teaching practice supervisors being mostly in their late teens or twenties) looked to the matronly Mrs Morice for mature guidance and a certain solid presence, viewing her as a 'Lecturer Mother to us all, including Miss de Lissa', whose wisdom, knowledge and experience was far greater than their own. Then too, in addition to encouraging the girls in her history of education course to read widely, Lucy was a prime force in the first decade of the Kindergarten 'Graduates' Club – not only chairing its monthly meetings but using her social contacts to invite outside speakers to supplement her own and de Lissa's addresses on a wide range of topics so that kindergartners might follow her personal example and stay abreast of modern methods, new educational ideas, and world-wide social and political developments affecting the welfare of women and children.³⁵ The Club's programme provided in-service education for kindergartners, was an important additional means of funding KUSA's activities, and strengthened bonds of friendship as well as the ideals of social service which underpinned the work of the Union. Notably, some of the early college students, especially Marjorie Caw (née Hübbe), Doris Beeston, Ella Keeves (née Nicholls), Heather Gell and Lucy's niece Anne Wainwright, became life-long friends of Mrs Morice – helping her to negotiate Union business and her personal affairs as she struggled to cope with the ageing process during the 1940s.

With regard to the overall direction and progress of the kindergarten movement across the four decades of her involvement, Lucy rejoiced in the personal achievements of some of the early graduates she taught and was delighted that the September 1922 "New Ideas" Education Conference at Adelaide University which she helped to initiate and organise was of 'great interest' to KU students and teachers, 'stimulating enthusiasm and renewed confidence in the work carried on in our kindergartens'.³⁶ The opening of the Lucy Morice Free Kindergarten and Nursery School in 1936 she viewed as a further step towards realising her dream that one day every suburb would have its own kindergarten. However, with the untimely death in November 1940 of Doris Beeston, the popular and capable KU secretary since 1924 with whom Mrs Morice regularly 'talked over all the ins and outs, the possibilities and impossibilities' of Union business, Lucy no longer felt 'in the heart of the movement as I did before'. Moreover, she disapproved of Doris's replacement whom she considered 'efficient enough as Secretary, but just that and nothing more'; disagreeing entirely with her and the current Principal's idea of re-modelling the free kindergartens along the lines of the new federally-funded Lady Gowrie Child Centre instead of what they were originally intended to be: 'happy places into which as many children as possible should be gathered in and given a

34 'A chat with Mrs Morice', *Daily Herald*, 28 June 1913.

35 For details, see H. Miller, *The early years of the de Lissa Institute of Early Childhood Graduates Inc. (Adelaide Kindergarten Club, March 1913 – July 1915; the Kindergarten Graduates' Club, August 1915 – July 1922)*, bound typescript containing Introduction, Club rules and purposes, compilation from Minute Book and a list of KTC graduates 1908-22, KUSA Archives, University of South Australia.

36 'Kindergarten progress. Views of Mrs J. P. Morice', MSS0046/47/4.

training in self-government, self-control and self-expression in the best possible environment we could provide'.³⁷

Concerned to protect this tradition, in the final decade of her life Lucy continued to serve on KU local and central committees, used her contacts with leading women in the fields of education and child welfare to advance the cause of Kindergarten and the careers of individual kindergartners, and through newspaper articles, letter writing and friends' visits shared her memories with the co-founders of KUSA, former KTC students and the public. To Lucy's bitter disappointment, though, the journalist who edited her written memoirs dropped out before her chapter on the history of kindergarten in South Australia was due to be published next in a weekly series. No one else would have had the personal knowledge or such a complete view of so many years of struggle, observed Anne Wainwright, ruing the fact that she had not kept copies of these chapters in order to publish them in book form as Lucy had intended. Lucy Spence Morice died on 10 June 1951, 'very weary of the frustration and ineptitude which accompanies great age'. The only permanent memorial to her is the North Adelaide kindergarten building where her MBE (Member of the British Empire) hangs below a photograph taken in 1936. She otherwise lived on in 'the ever widening circle of kindergarten expansion and in the hearts of those who loved her' but her maternal guidance of this State's free kindergarten movement across half a century of change has escaped historians' attention - until now.

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Email: [REDACTED]

37 Lucy Morice to Marjorie Caw, 17 May 1941, MSS0046/3.

38 Wainwright, pp. 7-8, 10.