

Edith Cowan: A Quiet Woman of Note

ISBN 9781925059021

Published by New Frontier, 2014

Written by Hazel Edwards

Aussie Heroes Activities:

1. Conduct a 'Noting Things' survey.

Ask:

- Which way do you put bank notes in your wallet or purse?
- Do you have any system?
- Or don't you see a \$50 note much?
- Face or numbers one way? Anyway?
- Is Edith's face towards the front or the back?
- Or do you fold her over?
- Who is on the other side?
- Can you describe what else is on the \$50 side which has Edith Cowan?
- Is this the front or the back?
- How do you decide?



(Answers)

On Edith's side of the note?

West Australia's original Parliament House and an illustration of a foster mother and children.

www.hazeledwards.com

David Unaipon appears on the \$50 but did you know why? He was known as 'Australia's Leonardo'. In 1909, he developed and patented a modified handpiece for shearing and over the following years won another 9 patents for inventions.

Find out more at:

State Library of South Australia: <http://ow.ly/k8QCt>

Dictionary of Biography <http://ow.ly/k8Q4p>

2. Committeeitis; Edith belonged to lots of committees. She believed that if people worked as a team, they achieved more.

A committee is just a group of people who try to work together to get a job done.

- Which teams or groups do you belong to?
- Is there anything your team achieved that you couldn't have done just by yourself?
- Who got the credit?
- Often a quiet person can contribute something important, but others get the credit.
- To what extent has that ever happened to you?
- Do you think it is important to get personal recognition for your work, or to get the job done?

What do you think is the most important thing Edith achieved?

Is it possible that she did something good, none of us know about?

('Committeeitis' has some funny and some useful hints of making committees work.

http://www.hazeledwards.com/page/committee_itis.html)

3. Cowan's portrait was featured on an Australian postage stamp in 1975, as part of a six-part "Australian Women" series



Green, white and purple are the 'feminist' colours. Was this deliberate in the stamp?

If you were to design a 6 part significant Australian women's series, who would you include?

Design your stamps series.

4. You've been asked to design something in memory of Edith Cowan or to celebrate her achievements.

Options:

Edith gave her followers a 'hard nut to crack' brooch as a thank you after she was voted into parliament.

Design a 'thankyou' brooch.

Or

Design a memorial garden or street names and facilities in a new suburb. What would you call the suburb?

5. Political cartoons

