

# UQFL365

## Constance Mackness Collection

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| <b>Size</b>       | 1 box                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Contents</b>   | Personal papers and photographs, including an autobiography and a history of the first 50 years of the Presbyterian Girls' College, Warwick, Queensland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Date range</b> | 1902 to 1973                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Biography</b>  | <p>Constance Mackness (1882 – 1973), teacher and author, was born at Tuena, New South Wales, the daughter of a goldminer. Her childhood was reflected in her first novel, <i>Gem of the Flat</i> (1915), which described a young girl's life on a smallholding in a family which lived by gold-fossicking, rabbit-shooting and small crops. Constance was sent to school in Sydney where she became the first female dux of the Fort Street Model School, matriculating in 1898 with honours in French, and winning one of only three university bursaries available to girls. In 1902 she graduated BA from the University of Sydney with first-class honours in English, French and history. She entered the teaching profession and taught at the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Croydon and the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Pymble, before being chosen in 1917 as the founding headmistress of the Presbyterian Girls' College, Warwick, Queensland. For the next 30 years she devoted herself to the school, and her most popular book <i>The glad school</i> (1927) was based on her work. Constance Mackness published ten books, all of them about young people, and wrote articles and short stories for the <i>Bulletin</i> and local papers. In 1949, she retired from the school. She died at Corinda, Brisbane on 13 December 1973.</p> |
| <b>Notes</b>      | <p>Open access</p> <p>Related material can be found in the Fryer Library at F2559.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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### Box 1

Bachelor of Arts diploma for Constance Mackness from the University of Sydney, 7 Apr 1902, 1 p  
2 photographs of a birthday celebration [Constance Mackness's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday?]  
*Presbyterian Ladies' College, Croydon 1888-1948* (Diamond Jubilee school yearbook)

### Folder 1

Handwritten draft of an autobiography entitled "Pioneering Gold-diggers from Ballarat: My Childhood's Golden Mates", begun on 17 June 1973, 2 64-page notebooks

### Folder 2

Typescript version of the above autobiography [Chapter 1: 47 pages, Chapter II: 49 pages], 1973.

**Folders 3 – 6**

“The Young School (The Glad School’s First Fifty Years)”, [a history of the Presbyterian Girls’ College, Warwick], finished on 9 Nov 1966, 780 pp, typescript with handwritten notes