Australian women were perhaps a little more “liberated” than their English cousins in the early decades of the 20th Century. They had certainly obtained the right to vote in Parliamentary elections more than a decade before them, when the Commonwealth Franchise Act 1902 granted Australian women the right to vote at a national level and to stand for election to Parliament. Women did not receive the right to vote in England until January, 1918. Women were able to graduate from Australian universities many years before they could graduate from universities in England. But their position in the Church of England was no better in Australia than at Home.

It might therefore be considered courageous of the Church of England parish of Darling Point in Sydney to offer the hospitality of their pulpit to Miss Maude Royden when she visited Sydney on a lecture tour in 1928. Thus she became the first women ever to preach from an Anglican pulpit in Australia.

Sponsored by the YWCA, the University Women Graduates' Association, the League of Nations Union, and other organizations, the tour of this gifted speaker provides an interesting perspective on the condition of women in Australia in the 1920s.