

# The Australian Women's Register

---

**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0595

## Bruce, Minnie (Mary) Grant

(1878 - 1958)

---

**Born** 24 May, 1878, Sale Victoria Australia

---

**Died** 2 July, 1958, Bexhill-on-Sea Sussex England

---

**Occupation** Author, Feminist, Journalist

---

### Summary

The author of the Billabong series of books, Mary Grant Bruce began writing poetry and short stories at the age of seven. Later she became editor of her school magazine. After completing her matriculation Bruce moved to Melbourne where she worked as an editor and wrote weekly stories for the *Leader* children's page. Her first book *A Little Bush Maid*, originally a serial, was published in 1910. Between 1910 and 1942 she published 37 children's novels. During her career Bruce was a contributor to *Blackwood's Magazine*, *Morning Post*, *Daily Mail*, *Windsor Magazine*, *Cassell's Magazine*, *Strand*, *Argus*, *Age*, *Herald* (Melbourne), *Australasian*, *Leader*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Sydney Mail*, *Lone Hand Auckland Weekly Press*, *Woman's World*, *West Australian* and the *British Australasian*. During World War II Bruce worked for the AIF Women's Association, sold her autograph at charity auctions for the war effort and broadcast a series of talks for the Department of Information.

### Events

#### 1938 - 1938

*Told by Peter* published

#### 1939 - 1939

*Son of Billabong* published

#### 1940 - 1940

*Peter and Co.* published

#### 1942 - 1942

*Billabong Riders* published

#### 1922 - 1922

*Cousin from Town* published

#### 1914 - 1914

*Grays Hollow* published

#### 1910 - 1910

*Little Bush Maid* published

#### 1912 - 1912

*Timothy in Bushland* published

#### 1912 - 1912

*Mates at Billabong* published

#### 1913 - 1913

*Glen Eyre* published



**1914 - 1914**

*From Billabong to London* published

**1915 - 1915**

*Jim and Wally* published

**1916 - 1916**

*Captain Jim* published

**1937 - 1937**

*Billabong Gold* published

**2002 - 2002**

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

**1917 - 1917**

*Dick* published

**1918 - 1918**

*Dick Lester of Kurrajong* published

**1919 - 1919**

*Back to Billabong* published

**1920 - 1920**

*The Tower Rooms* published

**1921 - 1921**

*The Houses of the Eagle* published

**1922 - 1922**

*Robin* published

**1923 - 1923**

*Hugh Stanford's Luck* published

**1924 - 1924**

*Anderson's Jo* published

**1924 - 1924**

*Billabong's Daughter* published

**1926 - 1926**

*Golden Fiddles* published

**1928 - 1928**

*Billabong Adventurers* published

**1929 - 1929**

*The Happy Traveller* published

**1931 - 1931**

*Road to Adventure* published

**1933 - 1933**

*Bill of Billabong* published

**1935 - 1935**

*Wings Above Billabong* published

**1939 - 1939**

Returned to Australia

**1922 - 1922**

*Stone Axe of Burkamuka* published

**1926 - 1926**

*Tower Rooms* published

**1948 - 1948**

Following death of her husband (1946) Bruce went back to England

**1913 - 1914**

Went to London where she wrote articles for the *Daily Mail* and met her future husband, distant cousin, Major George Evans Bruce

**2014 - 2014**

Returned to Australia and married at Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne

**2014 - 2014**

After the outbreak of World War I sailed on the troop-ship *Nestor* to Cork and during the next three years 'produced two babies and four books'

**2018 - 2018**

Following the war, returned to Australia to settle at Traralgon, Gippsland

**1926 - 1926**

Acting editor of *Woman's World* for six months

**1927 - 1927**

Moved to Omagh, Ireland

**1925 - 1925**

*House of the Eagle* published

**1941 - 1941**

*Karalta* published

**1913 - 1913**

*Norah of Billabong* published

**1917 - 1917**

*Possum* published

**1934 - 1934**

*Seahawk* published

**1923 - 1923**

*Twins of Emu Plains* published

**1970 - 1970**

Won first prize in the Melbourne Shakespeare Society's annual essay competition

**1970 - 1970**

Passed the matriculation examination with honours in English, history and botany

**1970 - 1970**

Her story *Her Little Lad* was published in the Christmas supplement of the Melbourne *Leader* under the signature 'M.G.H.'

**2000 - 2000**

Her story *Dono's Christmas* published in supplement of the Melbourne *Leader* under the pseudonym 'Coolibah'

**1936 - 1936**

*Circus Ring* published

## Published resources

### **Edited Book**

Who's Who in Australia 1950, Alexander, Joseph A, 1950

### **Resource Section**

Bruce, Minnie (Mary) Grant (1878-1958), Strahan, Lynne, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A070459b.htm>

### **Site Exhibition**

The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-home.html>

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **State Library of Victoria**

[Papers. \[manuscript\]](#)

[Letters. 1927 Apr. 7-1929 Dec. 10 \[manuscript\].](#)

[Autobiographical notes. \[not after 1972\]. \[manuscript\].](#)

[Correspondence. 1928-1954. \[manuscript\].](#)

### **National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection**

[Page from an autograph book signed by Mary Grant Bruce, 1943 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Manuscripts 1924-1925 \[manuscript\]](#)

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood

**Created** 13 October 2003

**Last modified** 12 September 2017