

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

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