

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE0661

MacLeod, Barbara Denise

(1929 - 2000)

Born 15 February, 1929, Bunbury Western Australia

Died 9 January, 2000, Mollymook New South Wales Australia

Occupation Servicewoman

Summary

Former primary school teacher Barbara MacLeod joined the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service in 1954. During her service she served in every Australian state except Western Australia. In 1976 MacLeod became the first woman officer of any service to attend the Australian Administrative Staff College (AASC). Three years later she was the first woman naval officer of Captain's rank to be posted to a male Captain's position. In 1982 MacLeod became an Honorary Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to Queen Elizabeth. She was the first Australian woman to be appointed as an ADC, a post which had to be relinquished on her retirement. On 9 June 1975 Naval Officer Barbara MacLeod became a Member of the Order of Australia. She was also awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (1977) and the National Medal (1977) and Bar (1979).

Events

1976 - 1976

Completed Advance Course at the Australian Administrative Staff College (AASC)

1950 - 1950

Graduated from the Western Australian Teachers College

2053 - 2053

Joined the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS) as a Direct Entry Officer Candidate

2054 - 2054

Commenced Officer Training Course

2054 - 2054

Commissioned as a probationary Third Officer

2058 - 2058

Promoted to Second Officer

1973 - 1979

Appointed Director of the WRANS

1970 - 1970

First woman sent by Defence to the Australian Administrative Staff College

2063 - 2063

Advised on the setting up of the Wrans' quarters at *HMAS Albatross*, the naval air station at Nowra, NSW

1975 - 1975

Appointed a member in the Military Divisions of the Order of Australia

1979 - 1984

Appointed Director of Navy Industrial policy and responsible for policy on housing, leave and pay

1982 - 1982

Appointed Aide-de-Camp to Queen Elizabeth and required to attend Royal functions whenever the Queen was in Australia

1977 - 1977

Awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal

1977 - 1977

Awarded the National Medal

1979 - 1979

Awarded Bar for the National Medal

1951 - 1953

Primary school teacher in Western Australia

1971 - 1973

Command WRANS officer to flag officer commanding East Australian Area

1975 - 1978

Vice-president of the Australian Naval Institute

1975 - 1975

Foundation member of the Australian Naval Institute

2062 - 2062

Promoted to First Officer

1972 - 1972

Promoted to Chief Officer

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

Requiem for a Wran : New South Wales Ex-Wrans Association, Cohn, Lawrence, 2003

Book

Ships belles : the story of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service in war and peace 1941-1985, Fenton Huie, Shirley, 2000

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Barbara MacLeod, former Chief Officer, WRANS, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

Author Details

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