

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4316

## McArthur, Annie Margaret

(1919 - 2002)

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**Born** 6 December, 1919, Ararat Victoria Australia

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**Died** 12 May, 2002, Honolulu New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Academic, Anthropologist

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### Summary

Annie Margaret McArthur led a distinguished career as an academic and an international consultant in the field of nutrition. Her research interests included Aboriginal Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. She paid particular attention to the contribution of women to the food supply and subsistence.

In 1965, McArthur was the first woman to be offered a tenured position in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney.

When McArthur died in 2002, she bequeathed property to the University of Melbourne. The McArthur Fellowship, for postdoctoral studies in the humanities and social sciences, was subsequently established in her honour.

### Events

#### 1941 - 1941

Bachelor of Science, University of Melbourne

#### 1942 - 1942

Master of Science, University of Melbourne

#### 1946 - 1946

Diploma in Nutrition, Australian Institute of Anatomy

#### 1952 - 1952

Diploma in Social Anthropology, University of London

#### 1953 - 1955

Received the Walter Mersh Strong Research Fellowship from the University of Sydney, which she used to carry out anthropological and nutritional fieldwork among the Kunimaipa people of Papua

#### 1955 - 1956

Received the Emslie Horniman Studentship from the Royal Anthropological Institute of London, which she used to continued her research in Papua.

#### 1962 - 1962

Awarded Doctorate of Philosophy in social anthropology

#### 1943 - 1945

Assistant Research Officer at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), where she was involved in the development of waterproof containers to transport food to troops in the Pacific.

#### 1947 - 1947

Member of the New Guinea Nutrition Research Unit, Commonwealth Department of Health



**1948 - 1949**

Nutritionist, Australian-American scientific expedition to Arnhem Land

**1958 - 1960**

Social Anthropology Consultant for the World Health Organisation to the government of Malaya

**1961 - 1961**

Nutrition consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation to the government of Indonesia.

**1962 - 1962**

Research Officer, Department of Economics, Institute of Advanced Studies at the Australian National University

**1963 - 1963**

Temporary lecturer in Anthropology, University of Manchester

**1964 - 1964**

Nutrition consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Africa

**1965 - 1965**

Taught part-time at the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene

**1965 - 1965**

Appointed Lecturer at University of Sydney – the first woman to be offered a tenured position in the Department of Anthropology

**1970 - 1970**

Promoted to Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney

**1973 - 1974**

Senior Fellow, East-West Centre, Hawaii

**1976 - 1976**

Married Dr Douglas Oliver, a retired Professor of Anthropology from Harvard

**1976 - 1976**

Left Sydney to resettle in Hawaii, where she continued her studies of the ethnography of the Kunimaipa people

**2002 - 2002**

Died in Honolulu

**Published resources****Journal Article**

Obituary: Annie Margaret McArthur, 1919-2002, de Lepervanche, Marie, 2002

**Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

**Site Exhibition**

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

**Archival resources****University of Sydney, Archives**

[Personal archives of MCARTHUR Annie Margaret \[1919-2002\]](#)

**Author Details**

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