

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE4316

McArthur, Annie Margaret

(1919 - 2002)

Born 6 December, 1919, Ararat Victoria Australia

Died 12 May, 2002, Honolulu New South Wales Australia

Occupation Academic, Anthropologist

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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