

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4457

## Thiele, Deborah

(1954 - )

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**Born** 21 May, 1954, Waikerie South Australia Australia

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**Occupation** Businesswoman, Consultant, Farmer, Political candidate, Teacher

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### Summary

Deborah Thiele was the inaugural national winner of the Australian Rural Woman of the Year Award in 1994. A graduate of the prestigious Roseworthy Agricultural College (now a campus of the University of Adelaide) not long after it opened its doors to women, she was the first woman to be appointed as an Agricultural Science Senior in the South Australian Education Department. A teacher with a rapidly advancing career in the Department of Education, she returned to farming when she married her husband, Anton. She is joint owner of their farm at Loxton in eastern South Australia. Since 2000 she has worked as an Agricultural Consultant and Lecturer, specialising in Farm Business Management.

In 2007, she stood for the federal electorate of Barker as the National Party Candidate. Prior to that, she stood for election to the South Australian Legislative Council. She stood again at the S.A election in 2010.

Thiele had an impressive record of community engagement at the time she won the award, and continues to maintain that record.

### Events

**1994 - 1994**

### Published resources

#### Book Section

Deborah Thiele, Bowden, Ros, 1995

#### Newspaper Article

Feminism flourishes down on the farm, 1994

Rural dynamo lifts women's profile, Sexton, Jennifer, 1994

#### Resource Section

1994 Radio Rural Woman of the Year National Winner, ABC Radio, 1997,  
<http://www.abc.net.au/rural/rwoty/previous94.htm>

#### Site Exhibition

Brilliant Ideas and Huge Visions: ABC Radio Australian Rural Women of the Year - 1994-1997, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2011,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/rwya/rwya-home.html>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection**

[Debbie Thiele interviewed by Ros Bowden in the Women of the land oral history project \[sound recording\]](#)

[Debbie Thiele address to the National Press Club on 1 March 1995 \[sound recording\]](#)

[Women of the land oral history project](#)

### **Author Details**

Nikki Henningham

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