

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4803

Sharp, Lorna

(1934 - 2024)

Born 11 January, 1934, Gnowangerup Western Australia Australia

Died 30 August, 2024, Kalgoorlie Western Australia Australia

Occupation Business owner, Office assistant

Details

Lorna Sharp was born in Gnowangerup in 1934, the third child of George Samuel Powell and Hansina Johnson.

First World War veteran, George Samuel Powell moved to Jerramungup to live on his father's Boer War service farm. He was murdered in 1930 and the family moved to Albany, where Lorna and her two brothers Leslie and Paddy went to school.

In 1948 the family moved to Kalgoorlie, where Lorna's mother worked in hotels. Lorna continued her schooling at St Mary's Catholic School in Kalgoorlie, working in a milk bar at night to put herself through her education.

She left school to begin work at 14 as a junior office assistant at the Producers Market on Brookman Street, Kalgoorlie. She enrolled in nursing, but after a year returned to Kalgoorlie to work for HW Davidson, who owned a pickle factory and were distributors for Mills and Ware biscuits.

Lorna Powell left work and married Robert Corbett (Bobby) Sharp on 4 April 1953. They have five children, Robert, Janet, Colleen, Norman and Beverley.

While her children were still at school Lorna returned to the paid workforce and began her career in real estate with agent Pat Engelbrecht. After several years in real estate, she worked for a year at the offices of a drilling company, but she returned to real estate, and became a partner in Wade's Real Estate Agency in 1970. She was the first person in the Goldfields to gain a Real Estate Licence. Lorna completed studies in accountancy and in 1975 became sole proprietor of Wade's Real Estate Agency, which became Kalgoorlie Real Estate.

Lorna remained involved with the real estate agency, now a family business, together with her daughter Colleen, her son-in-law Gavin and her son Norman.

Published resources

Magazine

Goldfields Magazine, 1992

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition

Karlkurla Gold: A History of the Women of Kalgoorlie-Boulder, Criena Fitzgerald and National Foundation for Australian Women, 2012,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/wikb/wikb-home.html>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Lorna Sharp interviewed by Ciena Fitzgerald \[sound recording\]](#)

Author Details

Ciena Fitzgerald

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Digital resources



Title: Charlie Furia, Lina Furia and their daughter Teresa
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023



Title: Lorna Sharp with her staff
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023



Title: Lorna-Sharp-seated-front-middle-with-her-staff-2011.-Courtesy-Lorna
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023