

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0053

## Sutherland, Joan Alston

(1926 - 2010)

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**Born** 7 November, 1926, Sydney New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 10 October, 2010, Montreux Switzerland

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**Occupation** Opera singer

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### Summary

Dame Joan Sutherland was appointed as a Dames Commander of the Order of the British Empire on 30 December 1978 for services to the performing arts. She was also appointed to the Order of Merit in 1991 for Services to opera and singing. In 1983 she was described as, 'quite simply, the greatest and most beloved singer in the world today'. She is known universally, and accurately, as 'La Stupenda'.

### Events

#### 1947 - 1947

Debut as Dido in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* (Sydney)

#### 1951 - 1951

Moved to London

#### 1952 - 1952

Joined Covent Garden and remained resident soprano for seven years

#### 1959 - 1959

Won international fame with debut as Lucia di Lammermoor (Covent Garden)

#### 1986 - 1986

Published: *The Joan Sutherland Album* (w. R Bonyngé)

#### 1997 - 1997

Published: *A Prima Donna's Progress : the autobiography of Joan Sutherland*

#### 2046 - 2046

Married: Richard Bonyngé.

#### 2026 - 2026

Born: Daughter of McDonald and Muriel Alston Sutherland

## Published resources

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Dame Joan Sutherland: La Stupenda,  
<http://www.cygnet.co.uk/thedame/>

### Book

100 great Australians, Macklin, Robert, 1983

A prima donna's progress : the autobiography of Joan Sutherland., Sutherland, Joan, 1997

Joan Sutherland : the authorized biography, Major, Norma, 1994

La Stupenda, Adams, Brian, 1993

### Resource Section

DAME JOAN SUTHERLAND, 2002,  
<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/australians/sutherla.htm>

Australian Performing Arts (PROMPT) Collection: Dame Joan Sutherland / Richard Bonyngne,  
<http://www.nla.gov.au/collect/prompt/sutherland.html>

### Site Exhibition

Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html>

### Newspaper Article

A big voice with a heart to match - Dame Joan Sutherland 1926-2010, Oxenbould, Moffatt, 2010

### Author Details

Clare Land

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