

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0101

Browne, Grace Johnston

(1900 - 1988)

Born 2 January, 1900, Scotland

Died 17 December, 1988, Sydney New South Wales

Occupation Gynaecologist, Obstetrician

Summary

Grace Browne was Director of the New South Wales Division of Maternal and Baby Welfare 1937-1964 and was a part-time lecturer in Maternal and Child Health at the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, University of Sydney 1946-1964. She was president of the Australian Federation of Medical Women, and also president of the Australian Federation of University Women. Grace Browne was appointed MBE – Member of The Order of the British Empire (Civil) – 13 June 1959, for her work as director of Baby Welfare in the New South Wales Health Department.

Details

Grace Cuthbert Browne was the youngest of a family of five. The family came to Australia when her father was appointed to insurance company, Sydney Marine Underwriters. The family lived in Lindfield, NSW and Grace attended Ravenswood School at Gordon from 1913 – 1917. In her own words (De Berg Tapes: National Library Tape 619) Grace described Ravenswood as “a very interesting school, the academic training was regarded as important and in those days this was exceptional.” Grace completed her Leaving Certificate in 1917 and won an exhibition to Sydney University to study medicine.

She married Professor F J Browne D.Sc., M.D., F.R.C.S.Ed, F.R.C.O.G University College Hospital, University of London

MEDICAL

MB, Ch M University of Sydney

First Resident Medical Officer at RNSH

GP in country and city for 12 years

Honorary Medical Officer before 1937

Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children

Tresillian Mothercraft Home – Royal Society for Welfare of Mothers and Babies

Lane Cove Baby Health Centre – Dept. Public Health

Director Maternal & Baby Welfare Dept. Public Health in NSW from 1937 until retirement

Member Maternal Mortality & Perinatal Committee, Dept. Public Health (formerly secretary 1939-1965)

Member Committee on Maternal & Child Health, National Health and Medical Research Council for over 20 years

Member Child Welfare Advisory Council NSW – advisor to Minister of Health

Member Board of Social Studies until transfer to University

Member National Fitness Council NSW

Member Council Bush Nursing Association for 25 Years

Lecturer in Maternal & Child Health, School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine University Sydney to 1965

Medical Officer, Grosvenor Hospital, Dept Health 1965-1970

Honorary Organiser Medical Group on Health Education with Headmistress Association Independent Girls Schools NSW

World Health Organisation travelling scholarship 1950-1951

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS & ROYAL COLLEGES

Member Australian Medical Association (AMA) – Fellow 1972

Rep. Women Medical Practitioners on Council of Australian Medical Association NSW Branch 1966-1969

Member Australian Paediatric Association

Fellow Royal College Obstetrics & Gynaecology

Member Royal Australian College of General Practitioners

Member Convocation: Macquarie University from 1965

Member Convocation: ANU 1975

Member Council Ravenswood School for Girls 1961- 1975

Member Aust & NZ Association for Medical Education

Member Aust Obstetrics & Gynaecological Research Society

Member Aust Council Scientific Study of Mental Retardation

COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS & SOCIETIES

International

Vice-President Medical Women's International Association

National

President Australian Federation of University Women

President Australian Federation of Medical Women

Australian Convenor Standing Committee for Health for Aust National Council of Women

State – NSW

President Public Medical Officers' Association

President Medical Women's Society NSW

President Sydney University Women Graduates Association

Vice-President Australian Physiotherapy Association (NSW)

Membership of Community Organisations

Institute of International Affairs, Arts Association Sydney University, The English Speaking Union, The Victoria League, The National Trust of Australia, The Art Gallery Society NSW, The Elizabethan Theatre Trust, The Friends of the Opera, Public Health Association, Council of Social Services, Fellow of Royal Institute of Public Administration.

CLUBS

The Queens Club, Avondale Golf Club, The Soroptimist Club of North Sydney

Published resources

Resource Section

Browne, Grace Cuthbert (1900 - 1988), Biographical Entry, 2002,
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P002000b.htm>

Cuthbert Browne, Grace Johnston (1900 - 1988), Browne, Elspeth, 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A170282b.htm>

Resource

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,
<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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>

Edited Book

Who's Who in Australia 1980, Draper, W. J., 1980

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Grace Cuthbert Browne interviewed by Hazel de Berg in the Hazel de Berg collection \[sound recording\]](#)

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

[Grace Cuthbert Browne papers, 1908-1989, collected by Kathleen Commins](#)

Ravenswood School for Girls

[Archives of Ravenswood School for Girls](#)

Author Details

Helen Morgan and Isobelle Barrett Meyering

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