

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0135

O'Brien, May Lorna

(1932 - 2020)

Born 20 May, 1932, Laverton Western Australia Australia

Died 1 March, 2020, Perth Western Australia Australia

Occupation Author, Educator

Summary

Born in Laverton, Western Australia, May O'Brien survived her removal to Mount Margaret Aboriginal Mission as a child, eventually taking up her first appointment as a teacher at Mount Margaret. After teaching for 25 years she moved into education policy, working for the Western Australia Ministry of Education and the Aboriginal Education Branch.

O'Brien was awarded the British Empire Medal on 31 December 1977 for work in Aboriginal education. For this she was also awarded the John Curtin medal. O'Brien was a delegate for Australia at the United Nations conference on Women in Denmark, 1980. She has written several children's books.

Horton (ed) (1994), *Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia*; WCTU (1980), *Some Aboriginal Women Pathfinders*.

Published resources

Book Section

May O'Brien: Heart and soul, Byrski, Liz, 1999

Newspaper Article

How crows became black [review], 1992

Leadership and vision rewarded [May O'Brien], 1998

[May O'Brien - profile], 1996

[May O'Brien - biographical details], 1986

Report

Report to the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, O'Brien, May, 1985

Edited Book

The Encyclopaedia of Aboriginal Australia : Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, society and culture, Horton, David, 1994

Book

Some Aboriginal women pathfinders : their difficulties and their achievements, Beeson, Margaret J (compiled by), [1980]

Resource

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>

Archival resources

State Library of Western Australia

[Claremont Cameos] [sound recording] : [oral histories of women teachers] / [devised by L. Hunt and J. Trotman].

[Rewriting Aboriginal history through oral history] [sound recording] / [talk given by May O'Brien].

May O'Brien papers

Author Details

Clare Land

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