

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** IMP0137

## Burke, Frances Mary

(1907 - 1994)

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**Born** 1 January, 1907, Melbourne Victoria Australia

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**Died** 14 October, 1994

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**Occupation** Artist, Businesswoman, Designer

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### Summary

Frances Mary Burke was appointed as a Member of the British Empire on the 1 January 1970 for her contribution to art and design. In 1937 she established with fellow graduate Morris Holloway Australia's first registered textile printery – Burway Prints. The Frances Burke Textile Resource Centre at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology was named in her honour. The centre now forms part of the RMIT Design Archives.

## Events

### **1987 - 1987**

Director of Arts Honoris Causa at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

### **1980 - 1983**

Chairman of the Course Advisory Committee in Textile Design at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT)

### **1977 - 1981**

Member of council at University College Melbourne

### **1968 - 1968**

Foundation council member of the National Printery Council

### **1968 - 1971**

President of the Arts and Crafts Society

### **1940 - 1940**

Exhibiting member of the Arts and Crafts Society

### **1958 - 1966**

Council member at the Museum of Modern Art and Design Australia

### **1958 - 1958**

Foundation member of the Industrial Design Institute of Australia (now Design Institute of Australia)

### **1947 - 1947**

Foundation member of the Society of Industrial Designers

### **1942 - 1942**

Commissioned to design fabrics for first Australian Embassy Washington, USA

### **1938 - 1938**

Foundation member of the Contemporary Arts Society

### **1937 - 1937**

Founded Burway Prints, the first registered textile screen printery in Australia (Frances Burke Fabrics Pty Ltd)

## Published resources

### **Edited Book**

Who's Who in Australia, 1988, Cadman, Kerith A, 1988

Heritage : the national women's art book, 500 works by 500 Australian women artists from colonial times to 1955, Kerr, Joan, 1995

### **Thesis**

A study of the work of Dr Francis Mary Burke, MBE, textile designer, with particular reference to the development of printed textile design in Australia., Oswald-Jacobs, Robyn, 1997

### **Book**

Francis Burke fabrics / Department of Fashion & Textile Design, RMIT, Oswald-Jacobs, Robyn, [1996]

From the night / [poems by Maie Casey ; drawings by Frances Burke], Casey, Maie, [1976]

Exclusive hand prints, Burke, Frances Mary, 1996

Women as designers in Australia, De Nijs, Jenny, 1986

### **Catalogue**

Frances Burke fabrics, 1937-1965 ; Gerry Wedd and Mambo, Green, Erica, 1999

### **Newspaper Article**

Designer who did it her way, 1996

The fabric of a society [review], 1997

### **Resource Section**

Burke, Frances, 2000,  
<http://www.cyberfibres.rmit.edu.au/biogs/TRC0005b.htm>

### **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

### **National Gallery of Australia, Research Library Archive**

[Papers of Frances Burke c1940s-c1960s / Frances Mary. Burke](#)

### **Author Details**

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