

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0014

## Ryan, Lyndall

(1943 - 2024)

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**Born** 14 April, 1943, Paddington New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 30 April, 2024, Newcastle New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Academic, Educator, Feminist, Historian

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### Summary

Lyndall Ryan was a member of the first Sydney Women's Liberation Group in 1970. In 1974 she joined the Commonwealth Public Service as a policy analyst on women's health and child care. She became an academic in 1977 and has held positions in Australian Studies and Women's Studies at Griffith and Flinders Universities. She was appointed to the position of Foundation Professor of Australian Studies and Head of School of Humanities at the University of Newcastle in 1998.

### Details

The daughter of Edna Ryan and a committed feminist, Lyndall Ryan was one of the early wave of scholars who examined the extent of violence perpetrated against Aboriginal people by white colonisers. Her book *The Aboriginal Tasmanians*, first published in 1981 and based on her 1975 PhD thesis, presented a critical interpretation of the early history of relations between Tasmanian Aborigines and white settlers in Tasmania. A second edition was published by Allen & Unwin in 1996, in which she brought the story of the Tasmanian Aborigines in the 20th century up to date.

Her scholarship since then continued to confront this violent past. In 2013, she led a team of scholars in a four year project to map the frontier massacres in Eastern Australia, a project funded by an Australian Research Council (ARC) grant investigating Violence on the Australian Colonial Frontier, 1788-1960.

Ryan was elected as a Labor member of the ACT Advisory Council in September 1967 and resigned in December 1968.

## Events

### **1977 - 1986**

Comparative Social History and Australian Studies, Griffith University.

### **1986 - 1998**

Women's Studies, Flinders University.

### **1998 - 2005**

Australian Studies, University of Newcastle.

### **1984 - 1986**

Queensland Committee on Discrimination in Employment and Occupation.

### **1996 - 1998**

South Australian Committee, Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

### **1999 - 2003**

School of Humanities, University of Newcastle

### **2004 - 2005**

School of Humanities, University of Newcastle, Ourimbah Campus.

### **1973 - 1974**

Leichardt Women's Community Health Centre.

### **1974 - 1976**

Policy Analyst, Priorities Review Staff and Women's Affairs Branch, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, Canberra.

### **1977 - 1977**

Australian History, Australian National University, Canberra.

### **1970 - 1970**

First Sydney Women's Liberation Group.

### **1971 - 1971**

*Mejane*

### **1972 - 1972**

*Refractory Girl*

### **2018 - 2018**

Australian Academy of the Humanities

### **2019 - 2019**

Order of Australia – Member – AM

## Published resources

### Book

The Aboriginal Tasmanians, Ryan, Lyndall, 1996

We Women Decide: Women's Experience of Seeking Abortion in Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, 1985-1992, Ryan, Lyndall, Ripper, Margie and Buttfield, Barbara, 1994

Getting Equal: the History of Australian Feminism, Lake, Marilyn, 1999

### Journal

Origins of a Royal Commission, Ryan, Lyndall, 1996

### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Site Exhibition

From Lady Denman to Katy Gallagher: A Century of Women's Contributions to Canberra, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2013,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/ldkg>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

[Correspondence of Warren Osmond and Lyndall Ryan, 1972-1996 \(bulk 1974-1982\) \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers of Julia Ryan, 1947-1982 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Waterloo creek: the Australia Day massacre of 1838, George Gipps and the British conquest of New South Wales \(Melbourne: Penguin, 1992\)](#)

[Papers of Manning Clark, 1907-1992 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers of Dymphna Clark, circa 1930-2000 \[manuscript\]](#)

[Papers of Lyndall Ryan, 1968-1992 \[manuscript\]](#)

### National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Lyndall Ryan, Dr., author, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

### National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Julia Ryan interviewed by Sara Dowse \[sound recording\]](#)

[Interview with Lyndall Ryan, Professor of Australian Studies, University of Newcastle \[sound recording\] / interviewer, Sara Dowse](#)

### Author Details

Elle Morrell

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