

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0038

Freeman, Joan

(1918 - 1998)

Born	7 January, 1918, Perth Western Australia Australia
-------------	--

Died	18 March, 1998
-------------	----------------

Occupation	Physicist
-------------------	-----------

Summary

In 1976 Joan Freeman became the first woman to be awarded the British Institute of Physics' Rutherford Medal. She began her career at CSIR Radiophysics Laboratory during World War II, working on the production of a 10cm microwave radar set, and spent most of her working life at the British Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.

Details

Freeman was educated at the University of Sydney, where she completed a Bachelor of Science in 1939 and Master of Science in 1943.

She worked with the CSIR Radiophysics Laboratory 1941-46; the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge 1946-51; and the Van de Graaff Accelerator Group, Harwell Nuclear Physics Division 1951-78.

Freeman was awarded the Rutherford Medal, British Institute of Physics, in 1976. SCEGGS Darlinghurst has a science, art and technology centre named in her honour.

Published resources

Resource Section

A Passion for Physics; Joan Freeman, Sherratt, Tim, 1993,
http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bspars/exhib/journal/as_freeman.htm

Journal Article

A Passion for Physics; Joan Freeman, Sherratt, Tim, 1993

Article

Dr. Joan Freeman (Address for the Gordon Godfrey Inaugural Lecture - May 1993), 1993,
<http://www.wisenet-australia.org/profiles/jfreeman.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

Book

A Passion for Physics: The Story of a Woman Physicist, Freeman, Joan, 1991

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

[Dr Joan M Freeman](#)

[Dr Joan M Freeman](#)

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Joan Freeman, physicist, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

Author Details

Elle Morrell

Created 1 February 2001

Last modified 5 April 2019