**Entry type:** Person
**Entry ID:** AWE0244

# Blackwood, Margaret

(1909 - 1986)

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| **Born** | 19090426, South Yarra Victoria Australia |
| **Died** | 19861231 |
| **Occupation** | Botanist, Geneticist, Servicewoman |

## Summary

Margaret Blackwood graduated from the University of Melbourne with a BSc in 1938 and MSc in 1940. During the Second World War she served with the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force and then was granted an ex-service postgraduate scholarship for Cambridge, where she gained a PhD for her work in plant genetics. In 1951 Blackwood returned to Melbourne and was a senior lecturer at the University of Melbourne until 1974. She was then elected a member of the University Council and in 1980 became the first female Deputy Chancellor. She held both these positions until her retirement in 1983. She was appointed as a Member of the British Empire in 1964 for work in botany and was appointed a Dame (Order of the British Empire – Dames Commander) for her services to education in 1980.

## Events

**1957 - 1958**
Australian Chairman of the Soroptimist International Association

**1909 - 1909**
Born daughter of Robert Leslie and Muriel Pearl (née Henry) Blackwood

**1958 - 1959**
Carnegie Scholar for Cambridge University in England

**1961 - 1974**
Chairman of the Melbourne University Council and Founder Fellow of the Janet Clarke Hall at the University of Melbourne

**1942 - 1942**
Commanding Officer at No 1 WAAAF Training Depot

**1941 - 1941**
Commissioned WAAAF

**1947 - 1948**
Dean of Women, Mildura Branch, Melbourne University

**1939 - 1941**
Demonstrator and Caroline Kay Research Scholarship Plant Cytology and Genetics at the University of Melbourne

**1946 - 1946**
Discharged from Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force with the rank of Wing Officer

**2001 - 2001**
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

**1941 - 1941**
Joined Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force (WAAAF) at inception as airwoman

**1975 - 1986**
Member of the Council of the University of Melbourne

**1942 - 1944**
Officer-in-charge, with rank of Squadran Officer, WAAAF Training

**1934 - 1938**
Senior science mistress at Korowa CEGGS

**1932 - 1933**
Senior science mistress at Lowther Hall CEGGS

**1945 - 1945**
Staff Officer with WAAAF Western Area

**1938 - 1938**
University of Melbourne demonstrator and Howitt Research Student

## Published resources

**Resource Section**
Blackwood, Dame Margaret (1909 - 1986), Carey, Jane, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A170107b.htm

BLACKWOOD, MARGARET, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=R&VeteranID=1069562

Blackwood, Margaret (1909-1986), Biographical Entry, 2002,
http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P002194b.htm

**Book Section**
Women and science at the University of Melbourne: reflections on the career of Dame Margaret Blackwood, Carey, Jane, 1996

Margaret Blackwood, Falk, Barbara, 1988

**Book**
Another time/place [sound recording], Public Broadcasting Association of Australia

The WAAAF in Wartime Australia, Thomson, Joyce A, 1992

A History of the Lyceum Club Melbourne, Gillison, Joan M, 1975

**Edited Book**
Who's Who in Australia 1983, Draper, W. J., 1983

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

**Newspaper Article**
A learned start to discovery day, Ross, Caroline, 1983

**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

## Archival resources

**The University of Melbourne Archives**
Blackwood, Margaret, Dame (1909-1986)

Blackwood, Margaret, Dame (1909-1986)

**The Ian Potter Museum of Art**
Dame Margaret Blackwood DBE, MBE

**Australian War Memorial, Research Centre**
Group portrait of four "original" WAAAF officers with the Director WAAAF Group Officer Clare Stevenson after a WAAAF Staff Officers conference at Air Force Headquarters, Victoria Barracks.

In the outdoors, the Director WAAAF, Group Officer Clare Stevenson, and a WAAAF Wing Officer conversing with WAAAF officers who conducted a four-day bivouac.

**Author Details**
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**Created** 23 January 2002
**Last modified** 27 January 2025