

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE0244

## Blackwood, Margaret

(1909 - 1986)

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**Born** 26 April, 1909, South Yarra Victoria Australia

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**Died** 31 December, 1986

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**Occupation** Botanist, Geneticist, Servicewoman

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### 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

### **1941 - 1941**

Commissioned WAAAF

### **1942 - 1942**

Commanding Officer at No 1 WAAAF Training Depot

### **1942 - 1944**

Officer-in-charge, with rank of Squadron Officer, WAAAF Training

### **1932 - 1933**

Senior science mistress at Lowther Hall CEGGS

### **1934 - 1938**

Senior science mistress at Korowa CEGGS

### **1938 - 1938**

University of Melbourne demonstrator and Howitt Research Student

### **1958 - 1959**

Carnegie Scholar for Cambridge University in England

### **1941 - 1941**

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

### **1946 - 1946**

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

### **1957 - 1958**

Australian Chairman of the Soroptimist International Association

### **1945 - 1945**

Staff Officer with WAAAF Western Area

### **2001 - 2001**

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

### **1909 - 1909**

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

### **1947 - 1948**

Dean of Women, Mildura Branch, Melbourne University

### **1961 - 1974**

Chairman of the Melbourne University Council and Founder Fellow of the Janet Clarke Hall at the University of Melbourne

### **1975 - 1986**

Member of the Council of the University of Melbourne

### **1939 - 1941**

Demonstrator and Caroline Kay Research Scholarship Plant Cytology and Genetics at the University of Melbourne

## 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.wv2roll.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

### 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

Anne Heywood

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