

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0257

## Preston, Margaret Rose

(1875 - 1963)

<b>Born</b>	18750429, Port Adelaide South Australia Australia
<b>Died</b>	19630528, Mosman Sydney New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Artist

### Summary

Margaret Preston was the first woman to be commissioned by the Art Gallery of New South Wales to produce a self-portrait. In 1996 one of her hand-coloured woodcuts of a Western Australian banksia from 1929 was commemorated on an Australia Day postage stamp.

### Details

Margaret Rose Mcpherson studied in Melbourne and Adelaide before travelling overseas. In 1919 she married Bill Preston. As a successful teacher and exhibitor, she developed a reputation for her highly decorative and colourful paintings and woodcuts of Australian fauna and flora at a time when European flowers were still considered the norm for gardens and paintings.

### Published resources

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Journal Article

Margaret Preston's Banksia Woodcut Memorialised, Butler, Roger, 1996

#### Book

100 great Australians, Macklin, Robert, 1983

The Complete Book of Great Australian Women: Thirty-six women who changed the course of Australia, De Vries, Susanna, 2003

#### Edited Book

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.200australianwomen.com.au/>

#### Site Exhibition

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

[Birth certificate and manuscript, 1875-\[ca. 1924\] \[manuscript\]](#)

**Author Details**

Anne Heywood

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