

Entry type: Person  
Entry ID: AWE0365

# Beaurepaire, Beryl Edith

(1923 - 2018)

Born	19230924, Camberwell Victoria Australia
Died	20181024, Mt Eliza Victoria Australia
Occupation	Community worker, Feminist, Patron, Women's rights activist

## Summary

Following the birth of her children, Beryl Beaurepaire became involved with charity work and the women's organisations of the Liberal Party. She summarises her liberal feminist views as follows: 'If you're a feminist you believe in equal opportunities and rights for women, but you also believe that women accept equal responsibilities.' (As cited by Emma Grahame in *Australian Feminism: A Companion*, OUP, 1998)

Dame Beryl passed away at her home in Mt Eliza, Victoria, on 24 October 2018.

## Details

Beryl Edith Bedggood completed her schooling at Fintona Girl's School in Balwyn, Victoria, before becoming a meteorological officer with the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force in 1942. After marrying Ian Francis Beaurepaire in 1946 she became involved in the community and charity work of Melbourne's society women. During the 1970s she was chairman of the Federal Women's Committee (1974-1976), and later convenor of the first National Women's Advisory Council (1978-1982) as well as being vice-president of the Victorian Division of the Liberal Party from 1976 to 1986.

Beaurepaire was a member of the Australian Children's Television Foundation Board (1982-1988), the Board of Victoria's 150th Authority (1982-1987), and a member of the Australian Bi-centennial Multicultural Foundation (1989-1992). From 1985 to 1993 she was chairman of the Australian War Memorial Council and then chairman of the Australian War Memorial Fund Raising Committee (1993).

She is Patron to a number of community organisations including: Children First Foundation since 2000, Peninsula Hospice Service since 1999, Palliative Care (Vic.) since 1999, Victorian College of the Arts since 1999, Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria since 1999, Australia Against Child Abuse since 1999, Peninsula Health Care Network Foundation since 1996 and the Portsea Children's Camp since 1996.

## Events

### **1975 - 1975**

Appointed, Member of the British Empire (MBE)

### **1977 - 1977**

Awarded Silver Jubilee Medal

### **1982 - 1988**

Board member of the Australian Children's Television Foundation Board

### **1982 - 1987**

Board member of the Victorian 150th Authority

### **1985 - 1993**

Chairman of the Australian War Memorial Council

### **1993 - 1996**

Chairman of the Australian War Memorial Fund Raising Committee

### **1973 - 1987**

Chairman of the Board of Management of Fintona Girls School

### **1974 - 1976**

Chairman of the Federal Liberal Party Women's Committee

### **1973 - 1976**

Chairman of the Victorian Liberal Party Women's Section

### **1945 - 1945**

Commissioned Assistant Section Officer

### **1991 - 1991**

Companion Order of Australia (AC)

### **1978 - 1982**

Convenor of the National Women's Advisory Council

### **2001 - 2001**

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

### **1946 - 1946**

Married Ian Francis Beaurepaire

### **1989 - 1992**

Member of the Australian Bi-centennial Multicultural Foundation

### **1982 - 1993**

Member of the Australian War Memorial Council

### **1977 - 1977**

Member of the Federal Women's Advisory Committee Working Party

### **1969 - 1977**

Member of the National Executive, YWCA Australia

### **1999 - 1999**

Patron of the Australian's Against Child Abuse

### **2000 - 2000**

Patron of the Children First Foundation

### **1999 - 1999**

Patron of the Epilepsy Foundation of Victoria Incorporated

### **1999 - 1999**

Patron of the Palliative Care (Vic.)



**1996 - 1996**

Patron of the Peninsula Health Care Network Foundation

**1999 - 1999**

Patron of the Peninsula Hospice Service

**1996 - 1996**

Patron of the Portsea Children's Camp

**1999 - 1999**

Patron of the Victorian College of the Arts

**1988 - 1990**

President of the Victorian Association of Most Excellent OBE

**1942 - 1945**

Served with the Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force

**1980 - 1980**

The Order of the British Empire – Dames Commander (DBE)

**1970 - 1986**

Vice-President of the Citizens Welfare Service Victoria

**1976 - 1986**

Vice-President of the Victorian Division Liberal Party

## Published resources

### Resource Section

Australian Women's Honour Roll B, CAPOW,  
<http://www.capow.org.au/Honourroll/honourroll-b.htm>

BEAUREPAIRE, BERYL EDITH, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,  
<http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=R&VeteranID=1069542>

### Edited Book

Australian Feminism: A Companion, Caine, Barbara, Gatens, Moira et al., 1998

Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

A decade of Mary Owen dinners, Waterfield, Dorothy, 1995

### Book

Beryl Beaurepaire, McKernan, Michael, 1999

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

The matriarchs: twelve Australian women talk about their lives to Susan Mitchell., Mitchell, Susan, 1987

The Alexandra Club : A Narrative 1903-1983, Starke, Monica, 1986

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

So Many Firsts: Liberal Women from Enid Lyons to the Turnbull Era, Fitzherbert, Margaret, 2009

### Resource

Women and Politics in South Australia, Cadden, Rosemary,  
[http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/women\\_and\\_politics/index.html](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au/women_and_politics/index.html)

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### Newspaper Article

War veterans honoured, 2001

### 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>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,  
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

## Archival resources

### State Library of Victoria

Papers, ca. 1970-ca. 1985 [manuscript].

### National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection

Heritage 200 entries, 1988 [manuscript]

### National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra

BEAUREPAIRE BERYL EDITH : Service Number - 90770 : Date of birth - 24 Sep 1923 : Place of birth - CAMBERWELL VIC : Place of enlistment - MELBOURNE : Next of Kin - BEDGGOOD EDWARD

### Author Details

Anne Heywood

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