**Entry type:** Person
**Entry ID:** AWE0386

# McKenzie, Florence Violet

(1890 - 1982)

| Born | 18900928, Hawthorn Victoria Australia |
|---|---|
| Died | 19820523, Greenwich New South Wales Australia |
| Occupation | Engineer, Servicewoman |

## Summary

In 1923 Florence Wallace (as she was then known) graduated as an electrical engineer from Sydney Technical College and in 1924 became Australia's first certificated woman radio telegraphist and the only woman member of the Wireless Institute of Australia. She was the founder and director of the Electrical Association for Women, established in 1934. In 1939 she founded and directed the Women's Emergency Signalling Corps, which later became the starting point for the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service (WRANS). Rosemary Broomham wrote in the biography of Florence McKenzie in *200 Australian Women* that altogether Mrs McKenzie trained over 10,000 servicemen in Morse, visual signalling and international code, and she trained 3000 women, a third of whom went into the Services. On 8 June 1950 Florence McKenzie was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for her work with the Women's Emergency Signals Corps.

## Events

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

## Published resources

**Book Section**
Florence Violet McKenzie, Broomham, Rosemary, 1988

**Book**
Cookery book and electrical guide, McKenzie, F V (compiled by), 1940

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

**Journal Article**
Mrs Florence Violet McKenzie (nee Wallace) OBE ASTC (Elec Eng) FAIN, "Mrs Mac" died peacefully in her sleep on Sunday evening, 23 May 1982, aged 90., 1982

**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.200australianwc

Who's Who in Australia 1962, Alexander, Joseph A, 1962

**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

**Resource**
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

McKenzie, Florence Violet (1890–1982), Nelmes, Michael, 2012,
https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mckenzie-florence-violet-15485

## Archival resources

**National Library of Australia**
[Biographical cuttings on Florence McKenzie, former patroness of the Ex-Wran Association, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

**Author Details**
Anne Heywood

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# Digital resources



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**Date:** 3 May, 2023



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