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.200australianwo

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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