

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE4343

Browne, Ida Alison

(1900 - 1976)

Born	19000816, Paddington New South Wales Australia
Died	19761021, Edgecliff New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Academic, Geologist, Palaeontologist

Summary

Ida Alison Browne lectured in palaeontology at the University of Sydney from 1935 to 1950, before working jointly with her husband, William Rowan Browne, a renowned geologist.

She was educated at Fort Street Girls' High School in Sydney, before attending the University of Sydney where, in 1922, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science, with First Class Honours. She was awarded the University Medal in geology. In 1932, she was awarded a Doctorate of Science.

Later in her career, she served as a Member of the Australian National Research Council.

Events

1935 - 1935
Appointed Assistant Lecturer in palaeontology at the University of Sydney

1923 - 1927
Demonstrator in geology, University of Sydney.

1924 -
Member of the Linnean Society from 1924, councillor (1941-50) and president (1945-46).

1935 -
Member of the Royal Society from 1935, vice-president (1942-50), honorary editorial secretary (1950-53) and president (1953-54)

1940 - 1940
Promoted to Lecturer

1945 - 1945
Promoted to Senior Lecturer

1927 - 1927
Received a Linnean Macleay fellowship, which she used to undertake geological investigation of the South Coast

1950 - 1970
Resigned and instead worked from home with her husband William Rowan Browne, a renowned geologist

1934 - 1934
Returned to demonstrating at the University of Sydney

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

The Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science: Pioneering Lives from Ancient Times to the Mid-20th Century, Ogilvie, Marilyn Bailey and Harvey, Joy Dorothy, 2000

Resource Section

Browne, Ida Alison (1900 - 1976), Walker, Roseanne, 2009,
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P002277b.htm>

Browne, Ida Alison (1900 - 1976), Vallance, T.G., 2006,
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A130741b.htm>

Book

Irresistible forces: Australian women in science, Hooker, Claire, 2004

Archival resources

University of Sydney, Archives

[Personal archives of BROWNE Ida Alison \[1900-1976\]](#)

Macleay Museum

[Dorothy Powell Albums](#)

Author Details

Isobelle Barrett Meyering

Created 29 January 2026

Last modified 29 January 2026