

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person

**Entry ID:** AWE4344

## Brewer, Ilma Mary

(1915 - 2006)

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**Born** 19150205, North Sydney New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 20061231, Sydney New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Academic, Botanist, Educator

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### Summary

Ilma Mary Brewer studied and later taught botany at the University of Sydney. She developed new methods of teaching based on the principle that a student learnt more by working at their own pace and through self-instruction. She outlined her methods in *Learning more and teaching less: a decade of innovation in self-instruction and small group learning*, published in 1985.

As well as working in academia, Brewer also spent time working for the Australian military and in private industry in the United States.

She attended North Sydney Girls' High School before enrolling at the University of Sydney in the 1930s.

## Events

### **1974 - 1974**

Appointed a staff associate in the Regional Teacher Training Centre for Health Personnel at the University of New South Wales

### **1942 - 1943**

Assistant Lecturer in Biology, University of Sydney

### **1936 - 1936**

Bachelor of Science, University of Sydney

### **1946 - 1947**

Director of research in a chemical factory in New Jersey, the United States

### **1942 - 1942**

Doctorate of Science, University of Sydney

### **1937 - 1941**

Holder of a Linnean Macleay fellowship in Ecology in the Botany Department at the University of Sydney.

### **1979 - 1984**

Honorary research affiliate in the Department of Anatomy, University of Sydney

### **1963 - 1970**

Lecturer in Botany/Biology, University of Sydney

### **1937 - 1937**

Master of Science, University of Sydney

### **1970 - 1978**

Promoted to Senior Lecturer in Biological Sciences, University of Sydney

### **1969 - 1969**

Received a special grant from the Vice-Chancellor to establish an audio-visual centre for self-paced, independent study in Plant Anatomy

### **1978 - 1978**

Retired

### **1957 - 1958**

Returned to the staff at University of Sydney as a part-time Demonstrator

### **1982 - 1982**

The Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia granted Brewer honorary life membership in recognition of her contribution to research and development in tertiary education

### **1939 - 1945**

Worked with Army Intelligence to map the vegetation in the coastal regions of New South Wales.

## Published resources

### **Resource**

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### **Resource Section**

Brewer, Ilma Mary (1915 - 2006), McCarthy, G. J.,  
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biogs/P000256b.htm>

### **Book**

Learning more and teaching less: a decade of innovation in self-instruction and small group learning, Brewer, Ilma Mary, 1985

Archival resources

**University of Sydney, Archives**

Personal archives of BREWER Ilma Mary [1915-2006]

**Author Details**

Isobelle Barrett Meyering

**Created** 24 September 2009

**Last modified** 22 April 2026