

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE0924

## Buttrose, Stroma

(1929 - 2020)

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**Born** 29 October, 1929, North Adelaide South Australia Australia

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**Died** 26 February, 2020, Myrtle Bank South Australia

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**Occupation** Geographer, Teacher, Town planner, University tutor

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### Summary

Stroma Buttrose was a pioneering figure for Australian women in architecture. She was the first female Planning Assistant in South Australia, and the first female Commissioner of the Planning Appeal Board. She was the author of numerous architectural publications, most notably *City Planning in Australia* in 1975.

### Details

Stroma Buttrose went to school at Hopetoun and then Woodlands at Glenelg where her interest in geography and later town planning began. She completed a Diploma in Arts and Education at Adelaide University and at 21 travelled to Europe with her family. After returning to Adelaide she taught Geography while completing a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Geography.

In April 1957 she was appointed temporary female draftsman's assistant to the government town planner. She organised the Land Use Survey covering Gawler to Willunga and the Development Plan for the Metropolitan Area of Adelaide was published in the Spring of 1963.

During 1962 Buttrose was one of ten students doing the Master of Town Planning degree at Adelaide University with Professor Rolf Jensen. In February 1973 she was appointed a Commissioner of the Town Planning Appeal Board/Tribunal, later to become the Environment, Resources and Development Court. She was the first woman to hold that position.

## Events

### **1957 - 1973**

Planning officer with the State Planning Office, South Australia

### **1977 -**

Life Member of the Friends of the State Library of South Australia

### **1977 - 1979**

Vice-president of the Society of Women Writers of Australia (SA)

### **1966 - 1972**

Vice-president of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (SA)

### **1967 - 1973**

Council member of the National Trust of Australia (SA)

### **1960 -**

Life Member of the National Trust of Australia (SA)

### **1980 -**

Council member of the Workers Educational Association of SA Inc.

### **1977 -**

Council member at Woodlands CEGGS Inc.

### **1954 - 1956**

Geography teacher at St Peter's Collegiate School, North Adelaide

### **1955 - 1956**

Tutor in geography at the University of Adelaide

### **1956 -**

Geography teacher at The Wilderness School, Medindie, South Australia

### **1966 - 1969**

Tutor in town planning with the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT)

### **1941 - 1947**

Attended Woodlands Church of England Girls' Grammar School

### **1953 - 1953**

Winner of the *On Dit* 21st birthday literary competition with three poems

### **1960 - 1972**

Member, later a Fellow, of the Fellowship of Australian Writers

### **1960 - 1962**

Member of the Commonwealth Council of the Fellowship of Australian Writers

### **1980 -**

Life Member of the Royal Zoological Society of SA Inc.

### **1975 -**

Life Member of the RSPCA

### **1951 -**

Member of the Graduates Union at the University of Adelaide

### **1955 -**

Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA)

### **1957 - 1973**

Member of the Royal Australian Planning Institute

### **1968 -**

Member of the Australian Conservation Foundation



**1977 -**

Member of the Australian Society of Authors

**1977 -**

Member of the Poets Union of SA

**1971 - 1973**

Member of the National Council of Women

**1969 -**

Member of the Queen Adelaide Club

**1969 -**

Member of the Zonta Club of Adelaide

**1973 - 1999**

Commissioner of the Planning Appeal Board, South Australia

**1949 - 1949**

Common law clerk with Thomson, Buttrose, Ross & Lewis, Barristers & Solicitors

**1952 - 1954**

Secretary with the Department of Architecture at the School of Mines, South Australia

**1954 - 1956**

President of the Woodlands Old Scholars Association

**1975 - 1975**

Publishers Rigby commissioned her to write a children's reader, *City Planning in Australia*

**1970 - 1970**

Member of the Children's Book Council

**1948 -**

Life member of the Woodlands Old Scholars Association

**1957 - 1958**

Vice-chair of the Young Contingent with the Victoria League

Published resources

**Edited Book**

Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

**Book**

City planning in Australia, Buttrose, Stroma, 1975

**Newspaper Article**

Scholar devoted to family and law, Buttrose, Stroma, 2002

**Resource**

AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource, 2002,

<http://www.austlit.edu.au/>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

## Archival resources

### **State Library of South Australia**

[Interview with Stroma Buttrose \[sound recording\] Interviewer: Yvonne Abbott](#)

### **National Library of Australia**

[\[Biographical cuttings on Stroma Buttrose, master town planner, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

### **National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection**

[Stroma Buttrose interviewed by Hazel de Berg in the Hazel de Berg collection \[sound recording\]](#)

### **Author Details**

Anne Heywood and Robin Secomb

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