

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE26062782

## Jarrett, Thelma Eileen

(1905 - 1987)

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**Born** 19050225, Sydney New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 19870813, Melbourne Victoria Australia

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**Occupation** Executive secretary, Teacher

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### Summary

Thelma Jarrett originally trained as a teacher and taught at Tintern Ladies' College in Melbourne from 1927 to 1939. During World War II she worked as an assistant administrative superintendent at the Munitions Supply Laboratories in Maribyrnong. In 1952 she became the general secretary of the Good Neighbour Council of Victoria, a Commonwealth-funded organisation to help post-World War II refugees and migrants assimilate into Australian society, a position she held until 1970. She was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in 1957 in recognition of her work.

In 1952 she also joined the Soroptimists Club of Melbourne, was President of the Victorian division from 1964 to 1966, and in 1969 became the first non-British person to become vice-president of the Federation of Soroptimist Clubs of Great Britain and Ireland, and was then elected President in 1972.

She was President of the Business and Professional Women's Club in Melbourne from 1955 to 1957 and also represented the Victorian branch of the National Council of Women on the State division of the United Nations Association of Australia from 1971 to 1983, being secretary and executive director from 1973 to 1975, and was the honorary secretary of the UNAA's Status of Women Committee from 1976 to 1984.

### Published resources

#### Article

Thelma Eileen Jarrett (1905–1987), Banks, Joan M, 2007, <https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/jarrett-thelma-eileen-12695>

### Archival resources

**National Archives of Australia, Victorian Office, Melbourne**  
[Papers of Thelma Eileen Jarrett MBE](#)

### Author Details

Maggie Shapley

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