

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE1998

Saxby, Nancy

(1904 - 1986)

Born	19040421, Woodburn Northumberland England
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Died	19861231, Sydney New South Wales Australia
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Occupation	Businesswoman, Farmer, Housewife
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Summary

Nancy Saxby ran for parliament only once: New South Wales Legislative Assembly, Blacktown, 1950. When she won Liberal Party preselection against nine other candidates, she was a poultry farmer at Bossley Park, near Fairfield in Sydney's western suburbs. After the election, she expressed her disappointment that there were not more women candidates, but she herself did not run again.

Nancy Saxby joined the Women's Auxiliary of the Australian Air Force in 1942 and was a section officer when she was selected to work in close contact with General Macarthur's Headquarters in Brisbane. During the course of this duty she visited American bomber groups in North Australia. She then worked with the Directorate of Public Relations in Sydney and was promoted in 1944 to the rank of Flight Officer. She had married Keith Hamilton Saxby in 1938 as a widow 'Agnes Gunn' and changed her name back to Gunn by deed poll by 1954. Her son, John Herbert Gunn, was a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy.

Published resources

Site Exhibition

Putting Skirts on the Sacred Benches: Women Candidates for the New South Wales Parliament, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2006,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/pssb/home.html>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Article

First woman to contest Blacktown, 8 April 1950

Book

Dear Descendants: Recollections for a Gunn family history 1945–1957, Gunn, John, 1998

Author Details

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Created 2 February 2006

Last modified 17 December 2025