The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3694

Guthrie, Bessie Jean Thompson

(1905 - 1977)

Born	19050702, Glebe, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Died	19771217, Sydney New South Wales
Occupation	Designer, Feminist, Publisher

Summary

In 1939, Bessie Guthrie established Viking Press, publishing anti-war material and poetry, mainly by women. She completed the artwork and block designs herself. During wartime, she worked as a publicity officer for the YWCA, overseeing press and radio news reports. Guthrie became a champion for young women in need. She joined the Women's Liberation movement from 1970, and became a founder of Elsie Women's Refuge. She was a committed feminist for the whole of her life.

Published resources

Resource Section
Guthrie, Bessie Jean Thompson (1915-1977), Bellamy, Suzanne, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A140394b.htm

Edited Book
200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

Sound recording
Creating a Space: The Life of Bessie Guthrie, Rapley, Judy, 2007,
http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Site Exhibition
The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Archival resources

State Library of New South Wales
Elsie Women's Refuge records, ca. 1974-2014

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