

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE3991

Gibb, Phyllis Annie Constance

(1904 - 1987)

Born 1 January, 1904, Glen Innes New South Wales Australia

Died 1 May, 1987, Melbourne Victoria Australia

Occupation Principal, Teacher

Summary

Phyllis Gibb was the first teacher at the School of the Air in Broken Hill, New South Wales.

Details

The daughter of Charles W.J. Scurr and Ann Graham, Phyllis was educated at the Fort Street Girls' High School in Sydney and graduated from Teachers' College. She taught at the Child Welfare Department Homes in Glebe, Sydney, before marrying Malcolm Gibb, a Presbyterian minister, in 1935. The Gibbs lived at Moree and Cessnock before moving to Broken Hill. After some time conducting a popular Radio Sunday School on 2BH, Phyllis was appointed first principal of the Broken Hill School of the Air when it opened on 23 February 1956. Using transceiver sets, over 80 students tuned in from remote areas covering 700 square miles. On-air classes took place twice a day, three days a week and lessons in music, drama and speech were offered in addition to the regular school subjects. Phyllis Gibb continued her work until 1964, when she retired to Melbourne after forty years of teaching.

Phyllis Gibb was awarded the MBE in 1963 for services to education. She was survived by her daughter Jeanie.

Published resources

Newspaper Article

School of the Air Initiated, 1956

Educational Air Waves, 1999

School of the Air, 1956

Book

Some Outstanding Women of Broken Hill and District, Camilleri, Jenny, 2002

Broken Hill, Kearns, Richard Hugh Bell, 1974

Classrooms a World Apart: The Story of the Founding of the Broken Hill School of the Air, Gibb, Phyllis, 1986

Site Exhibition

Unbroken Spirit: Women in Broken Hill, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2009,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/bh/bh-home.html>

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Outback Archives, Broken Hill City Library

[Gibb, Phyllis](#)

Author Details

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