

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE4316

## McArthur, Annie Margaret

(1919 - 2002)

<b>Born</b>	19191206, Ararat Victoria Australia
<b>Died</b>	20020512, Honolulu New South Wales Australia
<b>Occupation</b>	Academic, Anthropologist

### Summary

Annie Margaret McArthur led a distinguished career as an academic and an international consultant in the field of nutrition. Her research interests included Aboriginal Australia, Papua New Guinea and the Pacific. She paid particular attention to the contribution of women to the food supply and subsistence.

In 1965, McArthur was the first woman to be offered a tenured position in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Sydney.

When McArthur died in 2002, she bequeathed property to the University of Melbourne. The McArthur Fellowship, for postdoctoral studies in the humanities and social sciences, was subsequently established in her honour.

### Events

#### 1965 - 1965

Appointed Lecturer at University of Sydney – the first woman to be offered a tenured position in the Department of Anthropology

#### 1943 - 1945

Assistant Research Officer at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), where she was involved in the development of waterproof containers to transport food to troops in the Pacific.

#### 1962 - 1962

Awarded Doctorate of Philosophy in social anthropology

#### 1941 - 1941

Bachelor of Science, University of Melbourne

#### 2002 - 2002

Died in Honolulu

#### 1946 - 1946

Diploma in Nutrition, Australian Institute of Anatomy

#### 1952 - 1952

Diploma in Social Anthropology, University of London

#### 1976 - 1976

Left Sydney to resettle in Hawaii, where she continued her studies of the ethnography of the Kunimaipa people

#### 1976 - 1976

Married Dr Douglas Oliver, a retired Professor of Anthropology from Harvard

**1942 - 1942**

Master of Science, University of Melbourne

**1947 - 1947**

Member of the New Guinea Nutrition Research Unit, Commonwealth Department of Health

**1964 - 1964**

Nutrition consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation in Africa

**1961 - 1961**

Nutrition consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organisation to the government of Indonesia.

**1948 - 1949**

Nutritionist, Australian-American scientific expedition to Arnhem Land

**1970 - 1970**

Promoted to Senior Lecturer, University of Sydney

**1955 - 1956**

Received the Emslie Horniman Studentship from the Royal Anthropological Institute of London, which she used to continue her research in Papua.

**1953 - 1955**

Received the Walter Mersh Strong Research Fellowship from the University of Sydney, which she used to carry out anthropological and nutritional fieldwork among the Kunimaipa people of Papua

**1962 - 1962**

Research Officer, Department of Economics, Institute of Advanced Studies at the Australian National University

**1973 - 1974**

Senior Fellow, East-West Centre, Hawaii

**1958 - 1960**

Social Anthropology Consultant for the World Health Organisation to the government of Malaya

**1965 - 1965**

Taught part-time at the London School of Economics and the London School of Hygiene

**1963 - 1963**

Temporary lecturer in Anthropology, University of Manchester

**Published resources****Journal Article**

Obituary: Annie Margaret McArthur, 1919-2002, de Lepervanche, Marie, 2002

**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****University of Sydney, Archives**

[Personal archives of MCARTHUR Annie Margaret \[1919-2002\]](#)

**Author Details**

Isobelle Barrett Meyering

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