

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person

Entry ID: AWE5678

Bernard, Ann Isobel Alice (Daisy)

(1895 - 1973)

Born	1 January, 1895, Lake Cargelligo New South Wales Australia
-------------	--

Died	20 October, 1973, Concord New South Wales Australia
-------------	---

Occupation	Barrister, Law clerk, Lawyer, Pilot, Shooting champion, Solicitor
-------------------	---

Summary

The third woman to actively practise at the New South Wales Bar, Ann Bernard (nee Davis) had a number of uncommon strings to her bow, including being a pilot and prize-winning shooter. Married to Lionel Bernard, a returned First World War serviceman, she lived in Fiji in the 1920s and '30s and worked as a law clerk to the then governor, Sir Henry Scott. In 1938, she went to Oxford to study law. Considered to have a first-rate legal mind, on 25 June 1941 she was admitted to Middle Temple amid scenes of great destruction wrought by recent Second World War bombings of the Temple's buildings. On 29 October 1941, she was called to the New South Wales Bar, whereupon she proceeded to be involved in some of that decade's high-profile cases, including acting for suffragette, Adela Pankhurst Walsh. Bernard returned to Fiji in 1954, adopted a daughter, Angela, and established a wide practice for which she gained a reputation for taking on unpopular causes. In 1973, following her retirement to Concord, Sydney in the 1960s, she was tragically killed by a car while out walking one afternoon. Bernard's portrait by Mary Edwards hangs in the New South Wales Bar Association's Common Room.

Published resources

Resource Section

Ann Bernard Biography, Brodsky, Juliette, 2011,
http://www.nswbar.asn.au/the-bar-association/pioneering-women/#/5_ann_bernard

Resource

Pioneering Women at the NSW Bar: 1921-1975, New South Wales Bar Association, 2011,
<http://www.nswbar.asn.au/the-bar-association/pioneering-women/>

Newspaper Article

New woman barrister was in bomb blitz, 1941,
<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/167482053>

Site Exhibition

Australian Women Lawyers as Active Citizens, Trailblazing Women Lawyers Project Team, 2016,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/lawyers>

Author Details

Juliette Brodsky and Marina Loane

Created 25 May 2016

Last modified 11 November 2016