Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE5896

Ridsdale, Mary

(1924 - 2007)

Born	19240207, Melbuorne Victoria Australia
Died	20070816, Bairnsdale Victoria Australia
Occupation	Lawyer, Solicitor

Summary

Mary Risdale was admitted to practice as a legal practitioner in Melbourne on the 1st April, 1947. After many years as an employed solicitor and raising six children, Mary moved to Papua New Guinea in 1975.

There she spent six years with the Public Solicitor's Office appearing for defendants in the Supreme Court of Papua New Guinea. For four years she managed the Public Solicitor's Office in Rabaul and travelled all over New Guinea on the Supreme Court Circuit.

In 1975, Mary was appointed as the first solicitor to the newly established Katherine Regional Aboriginal Legal Aid Service. In this capacity she appeared regularly in the Magistrates Court in Katherine and the Supreme Court in Darwin. Through her dedication and industry the service provided very comprehensive and competent legal representation for Aboriginal people living in Katherine and surrounding communities.

Mary moved to Alice Springs in 1989 to take up employment as a solicitor with Stone and Buckley, now known as Morgan Buckley. She continued in full time practice as a solicitor with this firm for 10 years.

In 1997 Mary was appointed as a member of the Liquor Commission, now the Racing, Gaming and Licensing Commission. She remained as a member of the Commission until 2002.

Published resources

Resource Section
Mary Risdale [sic], Lawyer Since 1947, Thomas, Sally, 2004,
http://www.australianwomenlawyers.com.au/uploads/publications/Themis-Issue5-04.pdf

Vale Mary Cecilia Ridsdale, Stone, Josephine, 2007,
http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/journals/BalJlNTLawSoc/2007/89.pdf

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

Author Details
Larissa Halonkin

Created 17 August 2016
Last modified 23 September 2026