Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0038

Litchfield, Ruby Beatrice

(1912 - 2001)

Born	19120905, Subiaco Western Australia Australia
Died	20010814
Occupation	Actor, Community worker, Director

Summary

Ruby Litchfield was appointed as a Dames Commander of the Order of the British Empire on 13 June 1981 for service to the performing arts and the community. She had earlier been appointed as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (Civil), on 1 January 1959, for social welfare.

Details

Ruby Beatrice Litchfield (née Skinner) was born in Subiaco, Western Australia on 5 September 1912. She died on 14 August 2001. She grew up in Adelaide, attended North Adelaide Primary School and Presbyterian Girls' College. Litchfield's work and interests spanned theatre, tennis, and service to many community and charity organisations. She directed 35 plays for the Adelaide Repertory Theatre up until 1983, and acted in several plays. She was South Australian hard-court tennis champion three years in a row (1932-1935), and President of the Sportswomen's Association from 1969-1974. Litchfield was the first woman appointed to the Board of the Adelaide Festival Trust (1971). She was also a board member of the Adelaide Festival of Arts and chair of the Youth Performing Arts Council.

Her involvement in the community and charity sectors included services for the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, the Kidney Foundation, the Red Cross Society (South Australia), the Crippled Children's Association, the Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Research Foundation and the Regency Park Centre for Young Disabled.

For her community work, Litchfield was appointed OBE (1959). She was later awarded the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal (1977). Litchfield was further honoured in 1981, being appointed DBE, this time for service to the performing arts and the community.

Published resources

Edited Book
Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

S.A.'s greats: the men and women of the North Terrace plaques, Healey, John, 2001

Book
The World Who's Who of Women, 1973-1997

Newspaper Article
A champion of the arts, Archdall, Susan, 2001

Dame Ruby : a person for the people, Lloyd, Tim, 2001

Site Exhibition
Faith, Hope and Charity Australian Women and Imperial Honours: 1901-1989, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2003,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/honours/honours.html

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

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