

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0040

Macknight, Ella Annie Noble

(1904 - 1997)

Nationality Australian

Born 7 August, 1904, Urana New South Wales Australia

Died 1 April, 1997, MalvernMalvern Victoria Australia

Occupation Aviator, Golfer, Gynaecologist, Hockey player, Obstetrician

Summary

Ella Macknight was an obstetrician and gynaecologist who worked at the Queen Victoria Hospital, Melbourne. She was appointed as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire on 1 January 1969 for services to medicine. She was also a talented hockey player, winning University Blues and playing in the Victorian team when she was at the University of Melbourne.

Details

Ella Macknight, daughter of Conway Montgomery Macknight and Eliza Jane Simpson, was educated at home by governesses and later attended Toorak College. She gained her MB BS in 1928 from the University of Melbourne. After qualifying as an obstetrician and gynaecologist, (MD, Melb.1931, DGO Melb 1936), she was associated with the Queen Victoria Hospital from 1935-1977. Her appointments included honorary obstetrician and gynaecologist from 1935-1964; vice-president of the Committee of Management for 1963-1971 and president from 1971-1977. She was president of the Council of the Royal College of Gynaecologists from 1970-1972 and served as chairmen of the Blood Transfusion Committee, Victorian Division of the Red Cross Society from 1964-1970 and a member of the Executive of the Victorian Division during the same period.

Ella Macknight had a well developed adventurous streak. In 1929, she was persuaded by her cousin to learn how to fly. She got her pilot's ticket and, in 1930, was one of six women pilots in Victoria who provided an escort for Amy Johnson from Laverton to Moonee Valley, where they landed on the race track.

Ella Macknight was appointed as a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire for services to medicine on 1 January 1969.

She died on 1 April 1997 in Malvern at the age of 92.

Events

1978 - 1978

Fellow of the Australian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

1972 - 1972

Honorary Doctor of Medicine, Monash University, Victoria

1951 - 1951

Member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG)

1958 - 1958

Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG)

1973 - 1973

Fellowship in Australia in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (FAGO)

1976 - 1976

Fellow of the Australian Medical Association (FAMA)

Published resources

Edited Book

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

Book Section

Macknight, Dame Ella Annie Noble, DBE, 1996

Book

150 years, 150 stories: brief biographies of one hundred and fifty remarkable people associated with the University of Melbourne, Fleisch, Juliet and McPhee, Peter, 2003

The Ties that Bind: A History of Sport at the University of Melbourne, Senyard, June, 2004

Site Exhibition

She's Game: Women Making Australian Sporting History, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2007,
<http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/sg/sport-home.html>

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

Archival resources

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Dame Ella Macknight, former gynaecologist, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

Author Details

Rosemary Francis

Created 24 April 2002

Last modified 5 September 2012