Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0126

Leeson, Ida Emily

(1885 - 1964)

Born	18850211, Leichhardt New South Wales Australia
Died	19640122, Castlecrag New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Librarian

Summary

Ida Emily Leeson (1885-1964) was born at Leichhardt, Sydney, the daughter of Thomas Leeson, a carpenter from Canada, and his Australian born wife Mary Ann, née Emberson.

Leeson was educated at Leichhardt Public School and Sydney Girl's High School. She graduated with a Batchelor of Arts from the University of Sydney in 1906. In August that year she was appointed library assistant at the Public Library of New South Wales, and in 1909 was transferred to the Mitchell Library. In 1932 she was appointed second Mitchell Librarian.

In April 1944 Lieutenant Colonel A.A. Conlan secured Ida Leeson's secondment as a research officer in the Directorate of Research, where she was ranked captain, and later major in the Australian Military Forces. She was a member of A.A. Conlan's 'think-tank' which included John Kerr. Leeson did not return to the Mitchell Library, officially resigning in 1946. Toward the end of the war she was appointed librarian-archivist for the School of Civil Affairs, later known as the Australian School of Pacific Administration. In 1949 she went to Noumea to establish the library for the South Pacific Commission, returning to Australia the following year, where she continued to work for the commission in Sydney until 1956.

Published resources

Resource Section
Leeson, Ida Emily (1885-1964), Berzins, Baiba, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A100055b.htm

Book
Ida Leeson: a life: not a blue-stocking lady, Martin, Sylvia, 2006

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection
Ros Bowden - interviews with people who knew Ida Leeson, former Mitchell Librarian, 1985

Author Details
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