Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0219

Buttrose, Ita Clare

(1942 -)

Born	19420117, Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Author, Businesswoman, Editor, Journalist, Print journalist, Radio Journalist, Television Journalist

Summary

On 10 June 2019, Ita Buttrose was appointed Companion (AC) in the General Division, Order of Australia for eminent service to the community through leadership in the media, the arts, and the health sector, and as a role model. On 13 June 1988, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to the community, particularly in the fields of medical education and health care. In the Queen's Birthday list 1979 she was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for service to journalism. She became the first woman to be awarded the Harnett Medal for community service and achievements in publishing, journalism, radio and television.

Details

Daughter of: Charles Oswald and Mary Clare (née Rodgers) Buttrose.

Ita Buttrose was the founding editor of *Cleo* magazine in 1972. She then became editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly* and later publisher of Australian Consolidated Press Women's Division. A journalist by trade, Ida Buttrose has worked in all forms of media (print, radio and television) during her career.

Before starting her own company Capricorn Publishing, Ita Buttrose was a director of News Ltd, editor-in-chief of the Daily and Sunday Telegraphs, columnist and editorial consultant for the Fairfax magazine group and then editor-in-chief of the *Sun Herald* newspaper.

From 1984-1988, Ita Buttrose chaired the National Advisory Committee on AIDS. She is patron of Women of Vision, World Vision Australia, The University of Third Age, the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation of Australia, Amarant, the National Menopause Foundation, the Sydney Women's Festival, Safety House and National Institute of Secretaries and Administrators.

In 1984 she was named Variety Club's Personality of the Year as well as Australasian Academy of Broadcast, Arts and Sciences for the most promising Newcomer to Radio. In 1993 Ita Buttrose was named Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Australian of the Year. From 2013 to 2018 Buttrose hosted Network 10's Studio 10 morning program twice a week, aongside Joe Hildebrand, Sarah Harris, Denise Drysdale and Jessica Rowe.

In 2019 Buttrose was appointed by Prime Minister Scott Morrison as chair of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) for a five-year term. She was succeeded by Kim Williams in March 2024.

Events

1981 - 1981
Appointed Board member of News Ltd, Australia

1988 - 1988
Appointed Officer of the Order of Australia (AO)

1979 - 1979
Appointed the Order of the British Empire – Officer (Civil)

1992 - 1992
Awarded Hartnett Medal

1942 - 1942
Born daughter of Charles Oswald and Mary Clare (née Rodgers) Buttrose

1995 - 1996
Broadcaster for Radio 2GB, Sydney

1984 - 1987
Broadcaster for Radio 2KY and 2UE, Sydney

1991 - 1994
Chairman of AIDS Trust Australia

2001 - 2001
Chairman of Terraplanet Ltd

1997 - 1999
Chairman of the Australian Services Nurses' National Memorial Fund

1984 - 1988
Chairperson of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS (NACAIDS)

1988 - 1994
Chief Executive Officer of Capricorn Publishing Pty Ltd

1998 - 1998
Columnist for *Courier Newspaper Group* (Sydney)

1999 - 1999
Columnist for *The Australian Women's Weekly*

2019 - 2019
Companion (AC) in the General Division, Order of Australia: For eminent service to the community through leadership in the media, the arts, and the health sector, and as a role model.

1995 - 1998
Director of Buttrose and Dominguez Design

1991 - 1992
Director of Television & Telecasters Pty Ltd

2000 - 2000
Director of Terraplanet Ltd

1990 - 1994
Director of the Australia Advisory Board

1978 - 1981
Director of the K G Murray Leisure Group

1990 - 1996
Director of the Prudential Corporation Trust Australia

1998 - 1998

Director of The Smith Family, Australia

1989 - 1994
Editor of *ITA Magazine*

1975 - 1976
Editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly*

1988 - 1988
Editor-in-chief of *The Sun-Herald*

1976 - 1981
Editor-in-chief of the *Australian Women's Weekly* and of *Cleo*

1981 - 1984
Editor-in-chief of the *The Daily Telegraph* and of the *The Sunday Telegraph*

1972 - 1975
Founding editor of *Cleo*

2000 - 2000
GST Customer Advocate for Woolworths Supermarket chain

2001 - 2001
Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1998 - 1998
Member of the Alcohol Beverages Advertising Code Complaints Adjudication Panel

1997 - 1998
Member of the Federal Government Conference for Older Australians

1992 - 1993
President of Chief Executive Women

1995 - 1997
President of the National Opera Festival

1984 - 1988
Publishing consultant to *Women's Day* and *Portfolio* magazines

1997 - 1997
TV Panelist for *Beauty and the Beast* on Foxtel and the Ten Network, Australia

Published resources

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia 2002, Herd, Margaret, 2002

Article
Service nurses honoured with long awaited memorial, 1999

Ita Buttrose: Wikipedia entry,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ita_Buttrose

Site Exhibition
The Women's Pages: Australian Women and Journalism since 1850, Australian Women's Archives Project, 2008,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/exhib/cal/cal-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

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,
http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Book
Unapologetically Ita, Buttrose, Ita, 2025

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Papers of Meredith Hinchliffe, 1957-1981 [manuscript]

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