

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** IMP0269

## Crommelin, Minard Fannie

(1881 - 1972)

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**Born** 18810629, 'Aston Station', Bombala New South Wales Australia

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**Died** 19720204, Pearl Beach New South Wales Australia

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**Occupation** Conservationist, Postmistress

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### Summary

Minard Crommelin worked as a postmistress for over 25 years and was one of the early operators of the “Morse Telegraph Key”. She was the first postmistress at Woy Woy (1906-1910) and it was during this period that she grew to love the bush of the New South Wales central coast area.

### Details

Minard Crommelin, generally known as “Crommy”, was educated at Sydney Church of England Girls' Grammar School at Darlinghurst.

She began work at fourteen as an unpaid assistant to the postmistress at Mittagong and eventually became an official member of the Postal Service. She worked as a postmistress for over 25 years and was one of the early operators of the “Morse Telegraph Key”. She was the first postmistress at Woy Woy (1906-1910) and it was during this period that she grew to love the bush of the New South Wales central coast area.

After her retirement in the mid 1930s she visited England and Europe, contacting many conservation and natural history societies (she was a member of 154 of them). On her return to Australia she bought seven acres of land at Pearl Beach, which she donated to the University of Sydney in 1946 to establish the Crommelin Biological Field Station, known as Warrah. She continued to be interested and active in nature conservation and from 1960 onwards donated a total of \$17,768 to the Australian Academy of Science, some of which still exists as the Crommelin Conservation Fund. A road in Campbelltown has been named in her honour.

She was appointed MBE – Member of The Order of the British Empire (Civil) – 1 January 1959 for flora and fauna.

## Published resources

### Resource Section

Crommelin, Minard Fannie (1881-1972), Teale, Ruth, 2006,  
<https://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/crommelin-minard-fannie-5825>

Crommelin, Minard Fannie (1881-1972), Biographical Entry, 2002,  
<http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/bsparcs/biog/P001555b.htm>

### Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,  
<https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo>

### Resource

Where are the Women in Australian science?, Australian Science and Technology Heritage Centre, 2003,  
<http://www.austehc.unimelb.edu.au/wisa/wisa.html>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

### 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>

### Book

The Pearl Beach legacy: Minard Crommelin - visionary, Webb, Joan, 1994

## Archival resources

### Mitchell and Dixson Libraries Manuscripts Collection

['Deed of gift of land and effects' of M. F. Crommelin at Warra to University of Sydney for establishment of Crommelin Biological Station](#)

### University of Sydney, Archives

[Personal archives of CROMMELIN Minard Fannie \[1882-1972\]](#)

### Author Details

Rosanne Walker

**Created** 20 November 2002

**Last modified** 28 April 2026