

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** PR00420

## Robinson, Nellie Elizabeth

(1915 - 1992)

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<b>Born</b>	19150101, Toowoomba Queensland Australia
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<b>Died</b>	19920919, Toowoomba Queensland Australia
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<b>Occupation</b>	Mayor, Radio presenter, Teacher
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### Summary

Nellie Robinson was elected as Alderman to the Toowoomba Council in 1961. In 1967 she was elected mayor of Toowoomba, thus becoming Queensland's first female mayor. Nellie served the state for 14 years. The Queen's New Year Honours list in 1979 made her an officer of the Order of the British Empire for "distinguished service to local government".

### Details

Nellie Robinson was educated at North State School, Glennie Memorial School and St. Hilda's at Southport. In the 1930s she commenced a 3 year course at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London. Without completing the course Nellie returned to Toowoomba at the outbreak of World War II. She taught briefly at Fairholme, and then became a driver with the Women's Voluntary Auxiliary for the remainder of the war. Next she joined radio station 4GR for a short time, before moving to 2LM Lismore where she established her own women's session on air.

Nellie then joined her father's grocery business which she carried on after his death in 1949, only selling it in 1967 when she was elected mayor of Toowoomba. She was President of the committee which raised funds to build the Senior Citizens' clubrooms in Victoria Street & was dedicated to the development of East Creek Park. A Park on the southern side of Toowoomba is named in her honour. Miss Robinson had a particular interest in dramatic art and cultural activities and was a trustee of the Toowoomba Regional Art Gallery and was actively involved in the Toowoomba Repertory Company. Nell Robinson retired in 1981 because of ill-health.

She passed away on 19th September 1992 & is buried at the Drayton and Toowoomba Cemetery. The Robinson Collection within the Toowoomba City Library is so named because of a generous twenty thousand dollar bequest from Miss Robinson.

### Published resources

#### Resource

Nellie E. Robinson - Queensland's First Lady Mayor, Toowoomba Regional Council, 2003,  
[http://www.toowoomba.qld.gov.au/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=416&Itemid=691](http://www.toowoomba.qld.gov.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=416&Itemid=691)

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Resource Section

Nellie Robinson, Toowoomba Regional Council, 2009,  
<http://www.women.qld.gov.au/q150/1960/index.html#item-nellie-robinson>

### Author Details

Lee Butterworth

**Created** 22 June 2009

**Last modified** 11 June 2009