Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0120

Adam-Smith, Patricia Jean (Patsy)

(1924 - 2001)

Born	19240531, Nowingi Victoria Australia
Died	20010920, Melbourne Victoria Australia
Occupation	Author, Historian, Servicewoman

Summary

Patsy Adam-Smith introduced many readers to Australian history. Of her many publications three in particular stand out: *The Anzacs* (1978), *Australian Women at War* (1984) and *Prisoners of War* (1992).

On Australia Day 1994 Patricia Adam-Smith was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for service to community history, particularly through the preservation of national traditions and folklore and the recording of oral histories. She also received an Order of the British Empire – Officer (Civil) (OBE) in the Queens Birthday Honours list on 14 June 1980 for her services to literature.

Details

The daughter of railway workers, Patsy Adam-Smith was raised in a number of small Victorian country towns. She enlisted as a Voluntary Aid Detachment during the Second World War and was the first female to be articled as a radio officer when she worked on an Australian merchant ship from 1954-1960. In Hobart from 1960-1967 she was employed as an Adult Education Officer before taking the position of manuscripts field officer for the State Library of Victoria from 1970-1982.

In 1978 her book *The Anzacs* shared *The Age* Book of the Year Award and was made into a 13 part TV series. In 1980 she was the recipient of an OBE for services to literature. *Prisoners of War* won the 1993 triennial Order of Australian Association Book Prize. In 1994 Adam-Smith was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for her outstanding services to community history.

Her autobiography was published in two parts – *Hear The Train Blow* and *Good-bye Girlie.* For *Good-bye Girlie* Adam-Smith won the 1995 Benalla Award for Audio Book of the Year, and the 1995 TDK Australian Audio Book Awards, Unabridged Non-Fiction Category.

Events

1960 - 1967
Adult Education Officer in Hobart

1980 - 1980
Appointed Officer of the British Empire

1994 - 1994
Awarded an Officer of the Order of Australia

1983 - 2001
Committee Member of the Museum of Victoria

1973 - 1973
Federal President of the Fellows Australian Writers, Victoria

1970 - 1982
Manuscript Field Officer for the State Library of Victoria

1976 - 2001
Member of the Board of Directors for the Royal Humane Society Australasia

1954 - 1960
Radio operator on an Australian merchant ship

1993 - 1993
Received Triennial Award from the OBE Association

1943 - 1944
Served with the Australian Army Medical Women's Service

1973 - 1973
State President of Australian Writers, Victoria

Published resources

Newspaper Article
Patricia Jean (Patsy) Adam-Smith, AO, OBE, Lahey, John, 2001

The Anzac legend's great storyteller dies at 77, Johnson, Lyall and Cameron, Deborah, 2001

Anzacs author led us through our history, Ricketson, Matthew, 2001

Storyteller brought Anzac legend alive, Stanley, Peter, 2001

Leading Tasmanian literary figure dies, Wood, Danielle, 2001

Weaver of dreams, teller of our tales, Ebury, Sue, 2001

Edited Book
Who's Who in Australia 2001, Herd, Margaret, 2000

Article
Penguin Books Author Profile: Patsy Adam-Smith, 2001,
http://www.penguin.com.au

Patsy Adam-Smith AO OBE, 2001,
http://www.saxton.com.au/speakers

Adam-Smith, Patsy, (1926-, 2001,
http://www.digital.library.upenn.edu/women/

Book

Folklore of the Australian Railwaymen, Adam-Smith, Patsy (collected and edited), 1969

Hobart Sketchbook, Adam-Smith, Patsy (text), Angus, Max (drawings), 1968

No Tribesman, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1971

Romance of Australian Railways, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1973

The Desert Railway, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1974

Neon Signs to the Mutes: Poetry by Young Australians, Adam-Smith, Patsy; Dugan, Michael and Hamilton, J S (edited by), 1976

Footloose in Australia, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1977

Historic Tasmania Sketchbook, Adam-Smith, Patsy and Woodberry, Joan (text); Angus, Max; Mather, Frank and Phillips, Arthur (drawings), 1977

Trader to the Islanders [There was a Ship], Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1977

The ANZACS, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1978

Islands of Bass Strait, Adam-Smith, Patsy (text); Powell, John (photographs)

Victorian and Edwardian Melbourne from old photographs, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1979

Outback Heroes, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1981

The Shearers, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1982

When We Rode the Rails, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1983

Australian women at war, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1984

Heart of Exile: Ireland, 1848, and the Seven Patriots Banished…, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1986

Australia: Beyond the Dreamtime, Keneally, Thomas; Adam-Smith, Patsy and Davidson, Robyn, 1987

Prisoners of War, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1992

Trains of Australia: All Aboard, Adam-Smith, Patsy, c1993

Goodbye Girlie, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1994

Patsy Adam Smith's Romance of Australian Railways, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1974

Moonbird People, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1965

Hear the Train Blow: An Australian Childhood, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1964

Across Australia by Indian-Pacific, Adam-Smith, Patsy, c1971

Port Arthur Sketchbook, Adam-Smith (text); Phillips, Arthur (drawing), 1971

Re-discovering Tasmania: The North-West Coast, Beckett, Pat and Piet Maree; Harris, Ian (ed.), 1955

There was a Ship, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1967

The Barcoo Salute, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1973

Tasmania Sketchbook, Adam-Smith, Patsy (text); Angus, Max (drawings), 1982

Launceston Sketchbook, Adam-Smith, Patsy (text); Phillips, Arthur (drawings), 1973

Tiger Country, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1968

The Rails Go Westward, Adam-Smith, Patsy, 1969

Australian women writers : a bibliographic guide, Adelaide, Debra, 1988

Resource Section

BECKETT, PATRICIA JEAN, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002, http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=A&VeteranID=526213

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

Resource

AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource, 2002, http://www.austlit.edu.au/

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection
Patsy Adam-Smith interviewed by Hazel de Berg in the Hazel de Berg collection [sound recording]

National Archives of Australia, Melbourne Office
BECKETT, Patricia Jean [nee Smith] VFX124737 [6 pages]

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
Interview with Patsy Adam-Smith (When the war came to Australia)

State Library of Victoria
Christmas letters, 1974-1995, [manuscript] / Patsy Adam-Smith

Papers, 1993-1994 [manuscript]

Papers of Patsy Adam-Smith, [not after 2000] [manuscript].

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Patsy Adam-Smith, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

[Biographical cuttings on Patsy Adam-Smith, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Literary papers 1969-1981 [manuscript]

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