

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0221

Ludbrook, Nelly Hooper

(1907 - 1995)

Nationality Australian

Born 14 June, 1907, Yorketown South Australia Australia

Died 9 May, 1995

Occupation Geologist, Palaeontologist

Summary

Nelly Ludbrook, née Woods, was the first South Australian born palaeontologist to demonstrate the importance of palaeontology to the mining industry and founded what is now known as the Biostratigraphy Section of Mines and Energy, South Australia. Interested in geology and palaeontology from her undergraduate years at the University of Adelaide, where she completed Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees, she was able to pursue her interest in Cainozoic molluscs when she married Wallis Verco Ludbrook in 1935 and moved to Canberra. She had written a paper on the subject while working as a high school teacher at Mount Barker for which she was awarded the Tate Medal from the University of Adelaide. Her subsequent career included appointment as assistant geologist with the Commonwealth Government from 1942-1949, a period in London from 1950 at the Imperial College where she gained a PhD in geology and the DIC in palaeontology for a study of Pliocene molluscs from strata underlying the Adelaide Plains. On the death of her husband she returned to South Australia in 1952 where she was employed as technical information officer for the Mines Department, and in 1957 was appointed palaeontologist, a position she held until her retirement in 1967 as senior palaeontologist. She published more than 70 scientific papers and monographs, and at least 17 fossil species and one genus of fossil mollusc have been named in her honour. She was appointed Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1981 'for service to science'.

Published resources

Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Journal Article

Obituary: Nelly Hooper Ludbrook (1907-1995), R K Johns and B J Cooper, 1995

Edited Book

Stratigraphy, Palaeontology, Malacology: Papers in honour of Dr Nell Ludbrook, J. Murray Lindsay, 1985

Rock me hard...rock me soft...: A history of the Geological Society of Australia, B J Cooper and D F Branagan, 1994

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>

Author Details

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