

# The Australian Women's Register

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**Entry type:** Person  
**Entry ID:** AWE3694

## Guthrie, Bessie Jean Thompson

(1905 - 1977)

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<b>Born</b>	2 July, 1905, Glebe, Sydney New South Wales Australia
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<b>Died</b>	17 December, 1977, Sydney New South Wales
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<b>Occupation</b>	Designer, Feminist, Publisher
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### Summary

In 1939, Bessie Guthrie established Viking Press, publishing anti-war material and poetry, mainly by women. She completed the artwork and block designs herself. During wartime, she worked as a publicity officer for the YWCA, overseeing press and radio news reports. Guthrie became a champion for young women in need. She joined the Women's Liberation movement from 1970, and became a founder of Elsie Women's Refuge. She was a committed feminist for the whole of her life.

### Published resources

#### Resource Section

Guthrie, Bessie Jean Thompson (1915-1977), Bellamy, Suzanne, 2006,  
<http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A140394b.htm>

#### Edited Book

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988

#### Sound recording

Creating a Space: The Life of Bessie Guthrie, Rapley, Judy, 2007,  
<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/>

#### Resource

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

#### Site Exhibition

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

### Archival resources

#### State Library of New South Wales

[Elsie Women's Refuge records, ca. 1974-2014](#)

#### Author Details

Barbara Lemon

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