

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: IMP0013

Breen, Marie Freda

(1902 - 1993)

Born	3 November, 1902, St Kilda Victoria Australia
Died	31 December, 1993, Brighton Victoria Australia
Occupation	Parliamentarian

Summary

Dame Marie Breen was a Federal Senator for Victoria for the Liberal Party from July 1962 to June 1968 (retired).

Details

Marie Chamberlin was the daughter of Frederick William and Jeanne (née Conquest) Chamberlin, and was educated at St Michael's Church England Girls' Grammar School (St Kilda). She married Robert Breen on 12 December 1928. They had three daughters, one of whom, Jeannette Patrick, was the Liberal Member for Brighton, 1976-1985 and Parliamentary Secretary of the Liberal Party, 1979-82.

Marie Breen was a Federal Senator for Victoria for the Liberal Party from July 1962 to June 1968 (retired). Breen's community-based work included her membership of the Victorian Family Council, 1958-78; the Victorian Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, 1970-1978; and the Marriage Guidance Council of Victoria (later Relationships Australia), 1957-1971. Breen was appointed as Dames Commander of the Order of the British Empire on 16 June 1979 for service to the community. She had earlier been appointed an Officer of the British Empire, on 1 January 1958, for her work in the role of State President of the National Council of Women (Victoria).

Events

2010 - 2010

Inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women

1955 - 1962

Victorian Liberal and Country Party

1969 - 1973

UNICEF Committee for the United Nations Association of Australia's Victoria Committee

1970 - 1978

Victorian Association of the Citizens Advice Bureau

Published resources

Edited Book

Who's Who of Australian Women, Lofthouse, Andrea, 1982

Resource

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>

The Encyclopedia of Women and Leadership in Twentieth-Century Australia, Smart, Judith and Swain, Shurlee (eds.), 2014,

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/leaders>

Archival resources

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Interview with Dame Marie Freda Breen, politician and Senator for Victoria in the Federal Parliament, 1962-1968 \[sound recording\] / interviewer, Amy McGrath](#)

[Marie Breen interviewed by Bernadette Schedvin in the Parliament's Bicentenary oral history project \[sound recording\]](#)

Author Details

Anne Heywood

Created 24 April 2002

Last modified 12 September 2017