

The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0924

Buttrose, Stroma

(1929 - 2020)

Born	29 October, 1929, North Adelaide South Australia Australia
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Died	26 February, 2020, Myrtle Bank South Australia
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Occupation	Geographer, Teacher, Town planner, University tutor
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Summary

Stroma Buttrose was a pioneering figure for Australian women in architecture. She was the first female Planning Assistant in South Australia, and the first female Commissioner of the Planning Appeal Board. She was the author of numerous architectural publications, most notably *City Planning in Australia* in 1975.

Details

Stroma Buttrose went to school at Hopetoun and then Woodlands at Glenelg where her interest in geography and later town planning began. She completed a Diploma in Arts and Education at Adelaide University and at 21 travelled to Europe with her family. After returning to Adelaide she taught Geography while completing a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Geography.

In April 1957 she was appointed temporary female draftsman's assistant to the government town planner. She organised the Land Use Survey covering Gawler to Willunga and the Development Plan for the Metropolitan Area of Adelaide was published in the Spring of 1963.

During 1962 Buttrose was one of ten students doing the Master of Town Planning degree at Adelaide University with Professor Rolf Jensen. In February 1973 she was appointed a Commissioner of the Town Planning Appeal Board/Tribunal, later to become the Environment, Resources and Development Court. She was the first woman to hold that position.

Events

1957 - 1973

Planning officer with the State Planning Office, South Australia

1977 -

Life Member of the Friends of the State Library of South Australia

1977 - 1979

Vice-president of the Society of Women Writers of Australia (SA)

1966 - 1972

Vice-president of the Fellowship of Australian Writers (SA)

1967 - 1973

Council member of the National Trust of Australia (SA)

1960 -

Life Member of the National Trust of Australia (SA)

1980 -

Council member of the Workers Educational Association of SA Inc.

1977 -

Council member at Woodlands CEGGS Inc.

1954 - 1956

Geography teacher at St Peter's Collegiate School, North Adelaide

1955 - 1956

Tutor in geography at the University of Adelaide

1956 -

Geography teacher at The Wilderness School, Medindie, South Australia

1966 - 1969

Tutor in town planning with the South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT)

1941 - 1947

Attended Woodlands Church of England Girls' Grammar School

1953 - 1953

Winner of the *On Dit* 21st birthday literary competition with three poems

1960 - 1972

Member, later a Fellow, of the Fellowship of Australian Writers

1960 - 1962

Member of the Commonwealth Council of the Fellowship of Australian Writers

1980 -

Life Member of the Royal Zoological Society of SA Inc.

1975 -

Life Member of the RSPCA

1951 -

Member of the Graduates Union at the University of Adelaide

1955 -

Member of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (SA)

1957 - 1973

Member of the Royal Australian Planning Institute

1968 -

Member of the Australian Conservation Foundation

1977 -

Member of the Australian Society of Authors

1977 -

Member of the Poets Union of SA

1971 - 1973

Member of the National Council of Women

1969 -

Member of the Queen Adelaide Club

1969 -

Member of the Zonta Club of Adelaide

1973 - 1999

Commissioner of the Planning Appeal Board, South Australia

1949 - 1949

Common law clerk with Thomson, Buttrose, Ross & Lewis, Barristers & Solicitors

1952 - 1954

Secretary with the Department of Architecture at the School of Mines, South Australia

1954 - 1956

President of the Woodlands Old Scholars Association

1975 - 1975

Publishers Rigby commissioned her to write a children's reader, *City Planning in Australia*

1970 - 1970

Member of the Children's Book Council

1948 -

Life member of the Woodlands Old Scholars Association

1957 - 1958

Vice-chair of the Young Contingent with the Victoria League

Published resources**Edited Book**

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

Book

City planning in Australia, Buttrose, Stroma, 1975

Newspaper Article

Scholar devoted to family and law, Buttrose, Stroma, 2002

Resource

AustLit: The Australian Literature Resource, 2002,

<http://www.austlit.edu.au/>

Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Archival resources

State Library of South Australia

[Interview with Stroma Buttrose \[sound recording\]](#) Interviewer: Yvonne Abbott

National Library of Australia

[\[Biographical cuttings on Stroma Buttrose, master town planner, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals\]](#)

National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection

[Stroma Buttrose interviewed by Hazel de Berg in the Hazel de Berg collection \[sound recording\]](#)

Author Details

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