The Australian Women's Register

Entry type: Resource
Entry ID: AWH001516

Interview with Irina Ozolins [sound recording]

Interviewer: Helen Jones

Repository	State Library of South Australia
Reference	SRG 438/29/59
Date Range	12-Oct-98 - 12-Oct-98
Formats	Sound recording (cassette) analogue
Access	Access to use copies only with written permission from the donor. Contact the President, Lyceum Club. Original WITHDRAWN.
Finding Aid	None currently available (biographical outline, 6 pages, in production)

Details

43 minutes??Irina Ozolins was born in Latvia and had a happy childhood. She lived with her aunt in Riga to go to a private college and then to University where she studied mathematics. The Russians came to the Baltic states and took 2,000,000 people to Siberia including her mother and six relations. Many died including all her male relatives. The Germans came in 1941. She completed her master of science. The Russians returned and she and her friends left by ship for Germany. They were sent to various workplaces. She went to Dresden to work as a scientist in the university. Dresden was bombed and the city was flattened. She and her friend Emily made their way to Emily's aunt in Austria, travelling by train and escaping to the fields when bombers came. A month later all foreigners were ordered out of Austria so she was sent to a Latvian couple. There she met her husband. They went to the Latvian displaced persons camp and because of her languages she was employed as an interpreter for UNRRA. Her husband's landlady had a son in Port Pirie and he organised a landing permit for them to come to South Australia. They moved to Adelaide and she taught mathematics at Norwood and Unley High Schools. She also enjoyed painting and joined the Royal Society of Arts, was made a fellow and had seven solo exhibitions. She was invited to give a talk at the Lyceum Club and then joined the Art Appreciation and Literature Circles. She also joined the German Circle.

Author Details
Anne Heywood

Created   22 April 2004
Last modified   28 December 2017