



## **GW-NSW Joan Ritchie Award**

### **Joan Margaret Ritchie - Biographical Note**

Academic historian Joan Margaret Ritchie was born on 30 May 1923 at St Arnaud in Victoria, the daughter of Thomas Reid and Mabel nee Amiet Ritchie, who were both school teachers. She attended the University of Melbourne, completing her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in 1952 and a Master of Arts in 1966. In 1968 she gained her Master of Education from the University of Sydney.

Joan Ritchie was the head librarian at Email, the electrical equipment manufacturing company, between 1954 and 1958 but her ambition was to teach. She was a part-time lecturer in General Studies at the University of New South Wales, then known as the University of Technology, between 1956 and 1958. From 1958 until 1970, she taught history in Sydney Technical College's General Studies Department. In 1970 she returned to the Department of General Studies at the University of New South Wales, where she worked until her retirement.

She was a member of AFGW (now AGW) in Victoria before joining the Eastern Suburbs Branch in NSW.

In 1971 Joan Ritchie became the first woman to address the Institute of Engineers Australia. She published extensively in academic journals on the humanities and Charles La Trobe, the first Governor of Victoria.

Joan Ritchie retired from the University of New South Wales in 1987.

She died on 18 July 2013 at Aachen in Germany, where she had lectured on a number of occasions during study leave from the University of New South Wales.