

Archival Brief
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Dr Anna Hogg

BA DipEd (Syd) BEd(Hons) (Melb) PhD (Lond) BEd (Syd) FACE

James G Dwyer

The following citation recognised a great career in Australian education on 14 June 1981:

Sydney Teachers College

*In conferring upon her the degree of Bachelor of Education (Honoris Causa)
Sydney Teachers College honours Anna Catherine Hogg for her academic and
administrative Leadership in the College and her outstanding contribution to
education in Australia.*

Dr Anna Hogg was born in Kilmarnock, Scotland, in 1910 and attended the Annan Academy for Schooling. Her father was a pharmacist, while her mother was of very frail health. It was this latter fact which led the family to migrate to the warmer climate of Sydney in 1924. After graduating from Fort Street High School, Anna undertook her undergraduate studies at Sydney University where she won the Q S Caird Scholarship for Philosophy, a discipline which always fascinated her and which, along with her very strong Christian faith, largely guided her life. She gained her Bachelor of Arts degree with first class honours, in the course of which she was the first woman to be awarded the University Medal in Philosophy. She then undertook her Diploma of Education at the same institution and in 1933 commenced her teaching career. For a person whose first academic love was philosophy, domestic science was not the most suitable or satisfying of teaching appointments. Later appointment as a teacher of English, French and history brought much greater satisfaction in her choice of teaching as a career.

Encouraged to apply for the position of Lecturer in Education at Sydney Teachers College, she won the appointment and thus in 1938 began a long and distinguished career in teacher education. In 1947 she gained a Bachelor of Education degree (with honours) from Melbourne University and in 1948 became the first woman to be appointed as Head of the Department of Teacher Education at Sydney Teachers College, a position she held until her retirement in 1973. This was a challenging but outstandingly successful appointment, with its responsibility for a staff of which more than three-quarters were male. Another major first was being the only Australian woman to have been awarded the Imperial Relations Trust Scholarship to the University of London at the time, in 1953. Her period in London was one of the most satisfying of her life. Here she undertook her PhD studies on the centrality of the New Testament to all Christian belief.

Dr Hogg's work in teacher education was not confined to Sydney Teachers College. Her duties extended also to lecturing in the Philosophy of Education at the University of New South Wales in its Diploma of Education and Bachelor of Science (Industrial Arts) programs. She also for a time conducted seminars for medical doctors in the art of teaching and examining. In fact she had a long involvement in medical education, being for some years a member of the Postgraduate Committee in Medicine in New South Wales.

Another aspect of her work at Sydney Teachers College was instructing teachers who were preparing to teach in Papua New Guinea. As part of her own preparation

for that task, she travelled to Papua New Guinea and found great excitement and much satisfaction in visiting the remote areas where her teachers would be working.

As suggested above, a strong belief in Christian teaching pervaded the whole of Dr Hogg's academic, professional and personal life. Thus, Christian education in all its facets was of great importance to her. In evidence of this, in 1958 she became the founding editor of the *Journal of Christian Education*, a position she held for 19 years. She regarded this journal as much an academic publication as a religious one and was proud of its overseas circulation, particularly in the United States of America. She also wrote and co-authored several books, including *Understanding Teaching Procedures* (1973, with Keith Foster), *The Concept of School Discipline* (1975), *A Christian in the Profession* (1981) and *Values in Focus* (1984).

Her leadership in other educational and religious activities is further shown by her active membership in the New South Wales Institute of Educational Research (President), the Australian Teachers Christian Fellowship (President and Chair), the Council of Churches, the Council for Christian Education in Schools, and the Australian College of Theology. She also played an active part for many years as a committee member of Lifeline, of which her sister was Deputy Director. She had a long association with the Goulburn College of Advanced Education, becoming Chair of its Council and being made an Honorary Fellow. She was appointed as a member of the Board of Teacher Education in New South Wales and as a member of the Teacher Education Board of Queensland.

In addition, Anna served the Australian College of Educators with enthusiasm and distinction. As one of the few women invited to participate in the Founders Convention of the then Australian College of Education at Geelong Grammar School in May 1959, she regarded 'excellence in education – at all levels' as her most abiding recollection of that historic occasion. The existence of real fellowship between representatives of all sectors of the education spectrum and the willingness of delegates to respect and learn from one another were, in her estimation, major factors in the success of the Convention and the successful foundation of the College. As well as being a Founder Member of the College, she became a member of its Council, Chair of its Board of Censors and a member of the New South Wales Branch for many years. She was awarded Fellowship of the College in 1963.

In July 2010 Dr Hogg celebrated her 100th birthday, an occasion which presented the opportunity for many to recall the magnificent contribution she made to education in Australia. As one of her former teachers college students, Colin Macdonald, recently commented,

During my years as an Inspector of Schools I frequently quoted the wisdom of Dr Hogg.....In conversations over the years there seem to be a significant number who speak highly of her and recall the impact she has had on their teaching careers.

Reference Note

Information for this article has been obtained mainly from documentation gleaned from the files relating to Dr Hogg and held in the Australian College of Educators Official Archive. The majority of the material used is included in the audiotape conversation with Dr Hogg, conducted in 1994 by College Archivist, Tony Ryan, as part of the Oral History Project of the College.

Following an early career in education, James Dwyer (BA FALIA FACE) undertook studies in librarianship and worked at the National Library of Australia and subsequently as Chief Librarian of the Canberra Public Library Service. He returned to education as Superintendent of Curriculum (Libraries) in the Education Department of South Australia for 25 years and later as Executive Director of the South Australian Institute for Catholic Teacher Education, retiring in 1997. He was a member of the Libraries Committee of the Australian Schools Commission, Chair of the Australian Schools Catalogue Information Service, Chair of the Australian Bibliographic Network Committee and President of the Australian Library and Information Association. He was elected Fellow of the Australian Library and Information Association in 1982 and Fellow of the Australian College of Educators in 1981.