

5B is learning to write a specific type of information report: a biography. We jointly researched two amazing figures in Australia's history, then constructed a biography for each.

5B Biographies

Dame Enid Lyons



Field of achievement	Parliamentarian, social activist
Born	Born in 1897 Died 1981, aged 84.
Background	She grew up in Tasmania, where she was educated at the Hobart Teachers College and later became a teacher. At the age of 15 she met Joseph Lyons, who almost twenty years older than her. She married him two years later, at the age of only 17. She had twelve children, although one died in infancy. She and her children moved to Canberra when her husband became the Prime Minister. Her husband died (while he was Prime Minister) when he was only 59.
Achievements	She was made a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire in 1936. In 1943, four years after her husband's death she stood for Federal Parliament and became the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in Federal Parliament. She was also the first woman appointed to Cabinet. Her speeches in Parliament were generally traditional views on the family and other social issues. After she retired from parliament in 1951 she became a newspaper columnist and was on the board of the ABC, continuing to promote family life and women's issues. She published two volumes of memoirs, before being awarded Dame of the Order of Australia in 1980. She died the following year and was buried in Tasmania alongside her husband.

This year we celebrate the 200th anniversary of Lachlan Macquarie becoming Governor of New South Wales. Read about his amazing life and achievements.

Lachlan Macquarie



Field of achievement	Governor of New South Wales
Born	Scotland, 1761 Died England, 1824, aged 63.
Background	His father was a carpenter and his uncle paid for his education. He joined the British army at 15 and served in Canada, New York, Jamaica, India and China, where his first wife died. After his first wife died he was sent to Egypt. He also went to Baghdad and Moscow. When he finally returned to England he had become an important man and met other important people, such as the king and queen. He dined with the aristocracy and attended balls and the theatre. He married a second time in 1807, three years before being sent to Australia.
Achievements	Macquarie was appointed Governor of New South Wales in 1810. He dealt with an increase in the number of convicts by employing them in an ambitious program of public works, such as new buildings, towns and roads. He encouraged well-behaved convicts into the community by giving them tickets of leave. Macquarie named five towns; Richmond, Castlereagh, Pitt Town, Wilberforce and Windsor, now referred to as the five Macquarie towns. Macquarie was responsible for introducing coins as currency, and he was responsible for establishing the colony's first bank in 1817. Macquarie encouraged exploration over the Blue Mountains. He also appointed the convict Francis Greenway as an architect to help build Sydney and Parramatta (and also St Matthews church in Windsor). During his term as governor roads to Parramatta and the Blue Mountains were built, as well as a hospital and new army barracks and stables (now the Conservatorium of Music). By 1821 even though the colony had become almost self-sufficient under his leadership, some people were unhappy with Macquarie. He returned to England to defend charges made against him but died before he could do so.