

Gwenyth Ewens Story

Gwenyth Ewens was born in 1916 at Claremont, Western Australia, where she attended the Methodist Ladies College. She studied survey drafting and architecture at the Perth Technical College and took a course in History of Architecture at the University of Western Australia. She became a member of the Architectural Association of Western Australia. She specialised in glass research and did practical work at Pilkington Bros, St Helens, England. After a study tour of The Netherlands and Germany organised by the two respective governments, she became a member of the Housing Centre Trust in London. She was a member of the Inter-Society Colour Council of USA for 15 years.

Gwen Ewens was a tireless lecturer on architectural design, interior decoration, lighting, colour and vision, lecturing at the University of Western Australia for the Adult Education Board, and the Technical Education Division of the Department of Education in Western Australia. She presented her first paper 'On the production, properties and utilisation of glass' to the IES in Western Australia in 1949. In 1951, she joined the IES WA Council and served on most of the Council's committees. She acted as secretary when the need arose, contributing her vast experience in Society affairs to the continuity of the IES in Western Australia. She was elected on the National Council in November 1966 and remained on the Council to November 1972, when she retired from the National Council and, in 1975, also retired from the IES Council in Western Australia because of pressing family commitments.



Gwyneth Alberta Ewens, 1912-1995

Gwen was dedicated to IES: The Lighting Society and all the Society stands for. She was for many years the Western Australia representative on the National Lighting Education Board, and the State editor of the IES Lighting Review. Every five years, Gwen Ewens would become the rallying point for the IES National Conference and Convention in Western Australia. She often acted on the program committee, meetings committee, social committee, facilities committee, publicity committee, and as public relations officer, all in one.

On 20 November 1975 Gwen was elected a Life Fellow of the Illuminating Engineering Societies of Australia in recognition of her work "as a member of the National Council and, in particular, as a long-standing supporter of that Council in her home state, Western Australia".

Gwen Ewens passed away in Perth on 15 February 1995 and in her Will bequeathed a sum of money to IES: The Lighting Society, for the purposes of education and research.