



## **Maureen Christie**

Born October 15, 1922, in Queensland

Died November 10, 2008 in Ballarat

### **Lifelong campaigner for the advancement of women**

Maureen was born in Queensland and the Christie Family moved to Perth, Western Australia when she was young. Maureen commenced school at Loreto Convent in Perth. She had great talent and interest in acting and gained a Diploma of Speech from Trinity College.

Maureen wanted to be a doctor but medicine wasn't available in Perth so she completed first year Science in Perth, then transferred to Medicine at Melbourne University. After completing second year Medicine Maureen switched to Physiotherapy, graduating in 1944. Maureen also completed a Dramatic Art course at the Melbourne Conservatorium and played in many theatre parts, including Sophocles 'Elektra', to great acclaim.

The family moved to Ballarat in 1944 and established Christies Ballarat Cool Stores business and Maureen contributed enormously to its success. Maureen also started her physiotherapy practice in Ballarat which she conducted for the rest of her life.

Maureen subscribed to the Arts all her life. In Ballarat Maureen was heavily involved in theatre, acting in and producing many plays for the National Theatre Company and she commenced the Ballarat Writers and Poetry Group.

Maureen also loved travelling which she combined with attending overseas professional conferences. She brought back many new treatments for her patients from these conferences including connective tissue massage. She was an enthusiastic member of the Victorian Women Graduates Australia (now the Federation of University Women) and Zonta International. Maureen believed in equality and that women could achieve whatever they wanted.

Her numerous other interests included dressmaking, weaving, conservation, bird watching and Scottish country dancing.

In the words of her nominator, "*Her enthusiasm for life never waned*".