



City of Nedlands

# ***Minutes***

## ***Arts Committee Meeting***

***17 June 2019***

### **ATTENTION**

This is a Committee which has only made recommendations to Council. No action should be taken on any recommendation contained in these Minutes. The Council resolution pertaining to an item will be made at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council following this meeting.

## Table of Contents

Declaration of Opening .....	3
Present and Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved) .....	3
1. Public Question Time .....	4
2. Addresses by Members of the Public (only for items listed on the agenda) .....	4
3. Disclosures of Financial Interest .....	4
4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality .....	4
5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers .....	5
6. Confirmation of Minutes .....	5
6.1 Arts Committee Meeting – 15 April 2019 .....	5
7. Items for Discussion .....	5
7.1 Arts Committee's Amended Terms of Reference .....	5
7.2 Annie Dorrington Park .....	6
7.3 Final Design Presentation by Tony Pankiw .....	7
7.4 Installation of Inspired by Rosie .....	9
7.5 Photography Project Update .....	10
8. Date of next meeting .....	10
9. Declaration of Closure .....	11

## City of Nedlands

**Minutes of a meeting of the Arts Committee held in the Council Administration Building at 71 Stirling Highway, Nedlands on Monday 17 June 2019 at 5.30pm.**

---

### **Declaration of Opening**

The Presiding Member declared the meeting open at 5.30pm and drew attention to the disclaimer below.

(NOTE: Council at its meeting on 24 August 2004 resolved that should the meeting time reach 11.00 p.m. the meeting is to consider an adjournment motion to reconvene the next day).

### **Present and Apologies and Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)**

#### **Councillors and**

<b>Voting Members</b>	Councillor T P James (Presiding Member)	Melvista Ward
	His Worship the Mayor, RMC Hipkins (until 6.06 pm)	
	Councillor W R B Hassell	Dalkeith Ward
	Councillor K A Smyth	Coastal Districts Ward
	Alexandrea Thompson (from 5.35 pm)	Community Member
	Luke Hollyock	Community Member

<b>Staff</b>	Ms M Granich	Manager Community
	Mrs N M Ceric	Executive Assistant to CEO & Mayor
	Ms L Macfarlane Reid	Arts Centre Coordinator
	Mr A Dickson	Manager Parks Services

<b>By Invitation</b>	Mr Tony Pankiw (until 6.06 pm)	Artist
----------------------	--------------------------------	--------

<b>Public</b>	Nil.
---------------	------

<b>Press</b>	Nil.
--------------	------

<b>Leave of Absence (Previously Approved)</b>	Councillor Ben Hodsdon	Hollywood Ward
---	------------------------	----------------

<b>Apologies</b>	Nil.
------------------	------

## **Disclaimer**

Members of the public who attend Council meetings should not act immediately on anything they hear at the meetings, without first seeking clarification of Council's position. For example, by reference to the confirmed Minutes of Council meeting. Members of the public are also advised to wait for written advice from the Council prior to taking action on any matter that they may have before Council.

Any plans or documents in agendas and minutes may be subject to copyright. The express permission of the copyright owner must be obtained before copying any copyright material.

### **1. Public Question Time**

A member of the public wishing to ask a question should register that interest by notification in writing to the CEO in advance, setting out the text or substance of the question. Questions tabled at the meeting may be unable to be answered due to the requirement for technical research and will therefore be answered direct afterwards.

Questions must relate to a matter contained within the agenda of this meeting.

Nil.

### **2. Addresses by Members of the Public (only for items listed on the agenda)**

Addresses by members of the public who have completed Public Address Session Forms will be invited to be made at this point.

Nil.

### **3. Disclosures of Financial Interest**

The Presiding Member reminded Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Section 5.65 of the *Local Government Act* to disclose any interest during the meeting when the matter is discussed.

There were no disclosures of financial interest.

### **4. Disclosures of Interests Affecting Impartiality**

The Presiding Member reminded Councillors and Staff of the requirements of Council's Code of Conduct in accordance with Section 5.103 of the *Local Government Act*.

There were no disclosures affecting impartiality.

**5. Declarations by Members That They Have Not Given Due Consideration to Papers**

Councillor Smyth advised she did not get a copy of the minutes from the last meeting.

**6. Confirmation of Minutes**

**6.1 Arts Committee Meeting – 15 April 2019**

Moved – Mayor Hipkins  
Seconded – Councillor Hassell

**The Minutes of the Arts Committee 15 April 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record of that meeting.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 4/-  
(Abstained: Cr. Smyth)**

**7. Items for Discussion**

Note: Regulation 11(da) of the *Local Government (Administration) Regulations 1996* requires written reasons for each decision made at the meeting that is significantly different from the relevant written recommendation of a committee or an employee as defined in section 5.70, but not a decision to only note the matter or to return the recommendation for further consideration.

**7.1 Arts Committee's Amended Terms of Reference**

**Regulation 11(da) – Not Applicable – Recommendation Adopted**

Moved – Councillor Hassell  
Seconded – Mayor Hipkins

**That the Recommendation to Committee be adopted.**  
(Printed below for ease of reference)

Alexandrea Thompson joined the meeting at 5.35 pm.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6/-**

**Committee Recommendation / Recommendation to Committee**

**That the Arts Committee notes its amended Terms of Reference as approved by Council (see Attachment 1 - Arts Committee Terms of Reference).**

Council's Arts Committee operates under delegated authority from Council, expressed as the Arts Committee's Terms of Reference. Council may amend this Terms of Reference from time to time. Additionally, all Terms of Reference for Committee's of Council are reviewed following Council elections. Council recently reviewed the Arts Committee's Terms of Reference.

On 23 April 2019, Council decided:

**That in the Arts Committee Terms of Reference the clause under the heading Delegated Authority be amended to read (as tracked):**

**The Committee has delegated authority to implement public artworks of not more than \$10,000 each ~~to the value of~~ up to, in all, the budget allocation approved by Council within the current financial year's budget. Artworks over \$10,000 shall be recommended to Council for approval.**

The Arts Committee will continue to be able to implement artworks of up to \$10,000 and within the financial year's budget approval. However, artworks of \$10,000 or more must be referred to Council for approval before being commissioned.

## **7.2 Annie Dorrington Park**

### **Regulation 11(da) – Not Applicable – Recommendation Adopted**

Moved – Councillor Hassell

Seconded – Councillor Smyth

**That the Recommendation to Committee be adopted.**

(Printed below for ease of reference)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6/-**

### **Committee Recommendation / Recommendation to Committee**

**That the Arts Committee receives the information on the approval of the name Annie Dorrington Park.**

The Geographic Naming Committee, part of Landgate, approves names for public sites in Western Australia. The relevant local government authority may recommend a name.

In this case, the City of Nedlands recommended the name Annie Dorrington Park for Reserve 51183, Abbey Gardens, Mt Claremont – the park for which Tony Pankiw has been commissioned to create a public artwork. On 14 May 2019, Landgate advised the City that they have approved the name Annie Dorrington Park for Reserve 51183, as recommended by Council. (See Attachment 2 – Approval Naming Annie Dorrington Park).

Annie Dorrington (1866 – 1926) was an Australian artist who painted Western Australian wildflowers and is also one of the designers of the Australian flag.

Annie Dorrington arrived in the Swan River Colony in 1895. She soon began painting local wildflowers. From 1900 she was exhibiting widely, including in the 1900 Paris International Exhibition, the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition, the 1904 St Louis International Exposition and the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition in London.

In 1901, she was one 30,000 entrants into a competition to design the flag for the newly federated Australian nation. Five entrants who submitted similar designs featuring the Southern Cross constellation were named equal winners. Annie Dorrington was the only woman amongst the winning designers.

Annie experienced health issues and in 1908 and again in 1918 she was admitted to the Claremont Mental Hospital for treatment for depression. She died in 1926, aged 60 years, and was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery in an unmarked grave. In 1999, in honour of her contribution to Australian culture, a monument was erected to her in the cemetery. (See further information on Annie Dorrington at Attachment 3 – Annie Dorrington).

Annie Dorrington's story is strongly connected to the site: as a significant, early Western Australian artist; by her love of local wildflowers; and by her connection to what was previously the Claremont Mental Hospital.

Councillor Kerry Smyth addressed the item.

### **7.3 Final Design Presentation by Tony Pankiw**

#### **Regulation 11(da) – Not Applicable – Minor additions to artwork**

Moved – Councillor Hassell

Seconded – Mr Hollyock

**That the Recommendation to Committee be adopted subject to the following 2 additional clauses being added as follows:**

- 2. The plaque for the Annie Dorrington Memorial component of the artwork be brought back to the Arts Committee for discussion; and**
- 3. Councillor Smyth to do the initial draft wording for the Annie Dorrington Memorial Plaque and be brought back to the Arts Committee for discussion.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 6/-**

## **Committee Recommendation**

**That the Arts Committee:**

- 1. receives this final design presentation by Tony Pankiw;**
- 2. requests the plaque for the Annie Dorrington Memorial component of the artwork be brought back to the Arts Committee for discussion; and**
- 3. requests Councillor Smyth to do the initial draft wording for the Annie Dorrington Memorial Plaque and be brought back to the Arts Committee for discussion.**

## **Recommendation to Committee**

That the Arts Committee receives this final design presentation by Tony Pankiw.

At the last meeting of the Arts Committee, Tony Pankiw provided an initial presentation on his concept for the artwork he has been commissioned to provide for Annie Dorrington Park in Mt Claremont. The Arts Committee received this presentation and invited Tony back to present at its next meeting, being this meeting of 17 June 2019.

Tony has now progressed his design to Final Design Documentation stage. It is anticipated that this presentation will be the final one to be provided by Tony to the Arts Committee. Following this presentation, the artwork can be fabricated and installed in the Annie Dorrington Park.

Following fabrication and installation in the park, it is anticipated that there will be an event that will jointly celebrate the naming of the park and the launch of the artwork.

Mr Tony Pankiw and Mayor Hipkins retired from the meeting at 6.06 pm.



#### 7.4 Installation of Inspired by Rosie

##### **Regulation 11(da) – Not Applicable – Recommendation Adopted**

Moved – Councillor Hassell

Seconded – Mr Hollyock

**That the Recommendation to Committee be adopted.**

(Printed below for ease of reference)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5/-**

##### **Committee Recommendation / Recommendation to Committee**

**That the Arts Committee receives this information on the installation of Inspired by Rosie.**

On recommendation from the Arts Committee, Council purchased two public artworks from Sculptures by the Sea, being *Loyalty* by Ayad Alqaragholli and *Inspired by Rosie* by Tanya Spencer.

*Loyalty* has now been installed in the Carrington Street Park and was launched by the Mayor on Friday 24 May. *Inspired by Rosie* will be installed at Tresillian, as per the Council decision on installation sites for both of these works.

Before *Inspired by Rosie* can be installed at Tresillian, the area that will surround the sculpture will be sympathetically landscaped. (Currently the area intended for the sculpture is simply sand). Completing the landscaping before installing the artwork will also help avoid damage to the woven wire sculpture. The cost of landscaping the area that will surround *Inspired by Rosie* has been included in Technical Services section of the draft 2019/20 budget, for Council approval.

Installation of Inspired by Rosie will involve the following steps:

- Budget approval for cost of landscaping works – by 30 June 2019
- Landscaping the area at Tresillian that will surround Inspired by Rosie
- Installing Inspired by Rosie
- Launch of Inspired by Rosie.

Andrew Dickson, Manager Parks Services, addressed this item and regarding indicative timeframes for the landscaping and installation of the artwork.

A launch event will follow soon after successful installation.

## 7.5 Photography Project Update

### **Regulation 11(da) – Not Applicable – Recommendation Adopted**

Moved – Councillor Hassell

Seconded – Mr Hollyock

**That the Recommendation to Committee be adopted.**

(Printed below for ease of reference)

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY 5/-**

### **Committee Recommendation / Recommendation to Committee**

**That the Arts Committee receives this update on the photography of the City's public art collection.**

A photographer to undertake photographing the City's public artworks has now been appointed and will begin the project in the near future. The photographer appointed has experience on similar projects with other LGA's and is expected to provide high quality images. Administration will keep the Arts Committee informed of progress.

Updated report below given at this meeting:

When the agenda was distributed to the Arts Committee, the supplier had been secured, but we had no progress to report in time for the agenda distribution. In the few days before the 17 June meeting, we secured more detailed information to provide to the committee. The supplier is Terrace Photographers. Terrace Photographers has been engaged for Council photographic sessions at the City of Nedlands and they have also completed a Public Art Photographic record for another local government council. They were deemed to be the most experienced in addressing the requirements of the brief, and also provided the most affordable quote. Terrace Photographers is charging the City \$2,000 plus GST for this project. The two other vendors quoted \$2,500 and \$2,900. The day before the Arts Committee, Terrace photographers provided an update on the project. They had been slightly delayed as the façade at Admin was undergoing some maintenance, with scaffolding blocking the view for the '6009' artwork. They advised that they were now on track for completion by end of June 2019 and were waiting for a fine day to complete the project within the coming week.

## 8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Arts Committee meeting will be held on Monday 19 August 2019 at 5.30 pm.

**Declaration of Closure**

There being no further business, the Presiding Member declared the meeting closed at 6.27 pm.

## Arts Committee

### Purpose

The Arts Committee will be established under the *Local Government Act 1995* to implement public art projects within the City of Nedlands.

### Aim

To ensure that the City of Nedlands includes artworks of a high standard in the public domain.

### Scope

The Committee will undertake the following within the City of Nedlands:

Initiate, consider and decide on proposals for public artworks.

1. Oversee the implementation of public artworks.
2. Consider external proposals for public artworks to be donated to the City of Nedlands.
3. Promote awareness of the City's existing public artworks.
4. Review the City's art collection and make recommendations to Council on its conservation.
5. Review Council's Public Art Policy as required and make recommendations to Council on any proposed changes.
6. Develop a draft Percent for Art Policy and make recommendation to Council on its adoption.

### Procedure

After adoption of the City's budget by Council each year and before commencing its work for the ensuing year the Committee shall:

- Consider the budget and any other available funds for art works to be acquired in the ensuing year.
- Formulate a plan of priorities and objectives for the year including the proposed siting of any public art works.
- Present that plan for review and amendment or approval by the Council.

### Delegated Authority

The Committee has delegated authority to implement public artworks of not more than \$10,000 each to the value of up to, in all, the budget allocation approved by Council within the current financial year's budget. Artworks over \$10,000 shall be recommended to Council for approval.

## Membership

1. Mayor and four Councillors, appointed by Council.
2. Two community representatives with professional expertise in public art, who are residents of the City.
3. One youth representative with an interest in public art, aged 12 – 25 years, who is a resident of the City.
4. Non-residents of the City of Nedlands may be appointed as non-voting.
5. members.

## Meetings

1. Meetings are open to community and Councillors.
2. Voting members are listed under Membership above.
3. Non-voting members may participate in all aspects of the meeting other than voting.
4. Non-voting attendees (as distinct from non-voting members) will have observer status.
5. Meetings will be held quarterly or as required.
6. Meetings will only be held if there is a quorum.
7. A quorum will be 50% or more of the current formal voting membership.

## Staff

The following staff will attend meetings to provide support and advice:

- Manager Community Development, as required.
- Tresillian Coordinator, as required.
- Any other officer, as required.

## Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.

## Approved / Reviewed

10 December 2013 – CM11.13 Arts Committee and Terms of Reference  
 27 October 2015 – 14.6 Arts Committee and Terms of Reference  
 23 February 2016 – CM01.16 Appointment Community Members Arts Committee  
 24 October 2017– Arts Committee Terms of Reference  
 23 April 2019 – 14.1 Notice of Motion - Arts Committee Terms of Reference

01532-2019 Page 1



# Geographic Naming Approval

**Chief Executive**  
**Western Australian Land Information Authority**

O150639 XE

14 May 2019 15:15:10 Midland



DUPLICATE

The City of Nedlands, in their correspondence at (Document No. 2019-14393 and related correspondence), has requested approval for a new park name, to be applied to Lot 415, DP71165, on Reserve 51183, Abbey Gardens, Mount Claremont, as shown on SmartPlan at page 3.

The name initially requested by the City was amended due to a Council resolution.

This naming proposal is considered appropriate.

Accordingly, your approval is requested for the following;

New Park Name – Mount Claremont

Apply the name **ANNIE DORRINGTON PARK** to the whole of Reserve 51183 as depicted on the map at page 2, by Ministerial Order.

GN:001532

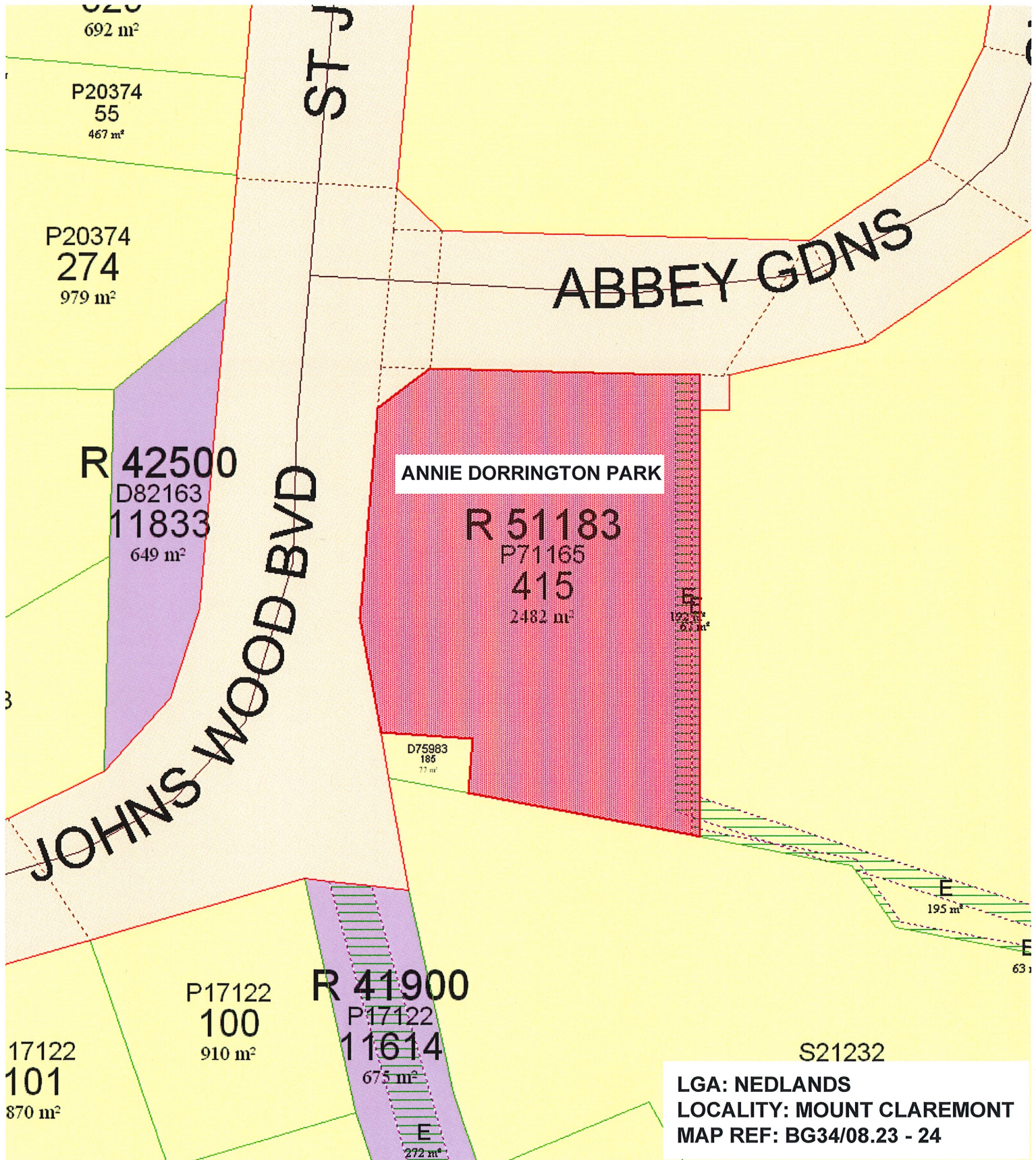
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T.M. Hoelber".

for Team Leader  
Topographic, Names and Address  
Operations Division  
TH; 2019 Job 1365  
Date; 14 May 2019

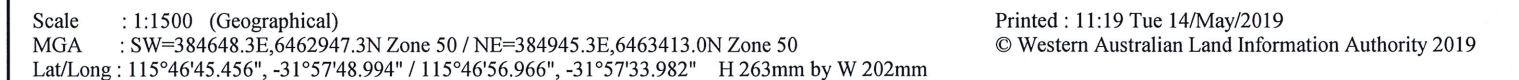
A handwritten signature in black ink, likely of the Minister for Lands, written over the word "APPROVED".

**APPROVED**  
by Order of the Minister for Lands  
*Land Administration Act 1997*  
section 26 & 26A









This product is for information purposes only and is not guaranteed. The information may be out of date and should not be relied upon without further verification from the original documents. Where the information is being used for legal purposes then the original documents must be searched for all legal requirements.



Source: [Alchetron.com](http://Alchetron.com)

# Annie Dorrington

**Annie Dorrington** (1866–1926) was an Australian artist who was known for her wildflower paintings and watercolours. She is also one of the designers of the Australian flag.





## Early life

On March 19, 1866, Annie Whistler was born at Litchfield Ashe, near Southampton, England. She was the second of nine children of Richard Whistler and his wife Sarah Mills (née Vines); she had six sisters and two brothers. Richard was a tenant farmer on the Foliejon Estate and farm in Winkfield, Berkshire; the family claimed to be related to the artist James McNeil Whistler, but this has not been proven. The farm adjoined Windsor Great Park, and Annie and her sisters sometimes saw Queen Victoria being driven through the park. Annie began painting in childhood and she and her sisters enjoyed painting scenes on the banks of the Thames River.

Richard Whistler died in 1887 and a bailiff named Charles Dorrington, who later became Annie's husband, came to manage the farm. When the Whistler sisters asked their mother the name of their prospective bailiff, she replied, "It could be Ahasuerus for all I know!" As a result, Charles Dorrington was known by the nickname 'Asu' from then on, and Annie would use 'Ahasuerus' as a pseudonym when she later entered Australia's national flag competition (see below). Several years after Richard's death, Sarah emigrated to Melbourne, Victoria, with all nine of her children. Charles Dorrington accompanied them, and in 1892 Charles and Annie were married in St. Alban's Church of England in Armadale, a suburb of Melbourne. Sarah had not wanted Annie to marry Dorrington and cut her off entirely as a result. Many years later, Annie's niece

Kath Dowsing would recall that her name was never mentioned in the family. In 1895, Annie and Charles moved to Western Australia; they lived at Fremantle in 1897 before they moved to Perth in 1898. Charles worked for the Swan River Shipping Company in Perth until 1914, after which he became a shire clerk at Mundijong. The Dorrington's had no children.

## Art career

It was after the Dorrington's moved to Perth that Annie became known as a painter who specialized in watercolours of Western Australian wildflowers. Her botanical paintings are for the most part moderately detailed and realistic, with some subjects painted in a more impressionistic style and with vivid colours. The subjects are often sprays of flowers with their leaves, isolated against a plain background. Typical of the plants she chose to depict are *Orthrosanthus laxus* (a small flower commonly known as morning iris), *Chamelaucium aorocladus* (known as waxflower), and kangaroo paw. She gave some of her paintings to a friend, Alice Moore, who picked specimen flowers for her in Kings Park.

By 1901, Annie was exhibiting widely, with watercolours in the Western Australian pavilion at the 1900 Paris International Exhibition, the 1901 Glasgow International Exhibition, the 1904 St. Louis International Exposition, and the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition, London. The London show included no less than 50 of her paintings. She offered to sell some of them to Bernard Woodward, director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery, but without success. To help support herself, Annie taught private painting classes at home from 1902 to 1906, advertising them in the local newspaper.

In 1901, using the pseudonym 'Ahasuerus', Annie entered the 1901 Federal Flag Design Competition to design a flag for Australia; hers was one of over 30,000 entries. She was the first named and only woman among the five entrants who submitted similar designs, all of which featured the constellation of the Southern Cross. She split a prize of £200 with the other four other winners: Igor Evans (a schoolboy), Leslie John Hawkins (an apprentice optician), Egbert John Nuttall (an architect), and William Stevens (a ship's officer).

Suffering from depression, Annie had treatments at Claremont Mental Hospital for a few months in 1908 and again in 1918. In 1914, she and her husband moved to Serpentine, where Charles became a farmer and fruit grower. Annie died there of cancer in 1926 at the age of 60 and was buried in Karrakatta Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Charles died nine years later, in 1935, and the following year 124 of Annie's paintings were donated to the Art Gallery of Western Australia. In 1991, her paintings were featured in a survey exhibition mounted by the gallery and subsequently reproduced in the resulting show catalogue. In 1999, in honor of her contributions to Australian culture, a new monument to Annie Dorrington was erected at the cemetery.



## Source: Monument Australia

### Annie Dorrington

A plaque commemorates artist and Australian Flag designer, Annie Dorrington.

Annie Dorrington immortalised her name in history when in 1901, the year of Federation, she shared first prize with four others in a world-wide competition for the design of the Australian National Flag. She was the only woman and Western Australian to be bestowed this honour.

Annie died in 1926 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Karrakatta Cemetery. The grave was discovered by the Australian National Flag Association (WA) Inc. who erected a monument in 1999.

03-January-2013



Photographs supplied by Bryan Hardy

## Karrakatta Historical Walk Trail One

### **21. Annie Dorrington (1866-1926), artist and Australian flag designer**

Anglican

MA

524



Annie Dorrington immortalised her name in history in 1901, the year of Federation, when she shared first prize with four others in a world-wide competition to create a winning design of the Australian National Flag. She was the only woman and Western Australian to be bestowed this honour.

Born in Berkshire, England, Annie migrated to Victoria in 1890. Two years later she married Charles Dorrington and in 1895 they moved to Perth. Her love of Western Australia is reflected in 124 exquisite wildflower paintings, now held by the Art Gallery of Western Australia.

Annie died in 1926 and was buried in an unmarked grave at Karrakatta Cemetery. The grave was discovered by the Australian National Flag Association (WA) Inc. in 1998. Today, thanks to the efforts of the Association, a handsome memorial monument stands on what was previously bare sand. The grave was consecrated in 1999 by the Dean of Perth, Dr John Shepherd, to honour this remarkable and talented woman who contributed so much to Australia's heritage.

Source: [Art Gallery of Western Australia](#)

September 3, 2015 ·

Today is Australian National Flag Day. In 1901, Western Australian painter Annie Dorrington entered the competition for the design of a new Australian flag, and was named one of five winners who had all submitted similar designs. Nearly 1% of the population at the time entered the competition.

Annie Dorrington was a highly-regarded painter of watercolours of local wildflowers, and her works were exhibited at many international exhibitions. The Art Gallery of Western Australia purchased a collection of 128 of her watercolours in 1936.

These are three of her works.



## *Annie Whistler Dorrington*

Published by the Australian National Flag Association (WA) (Inc)

Unquestionably the accidental discovery of the unmarked grave of co-designer of the Australian National Flag, Annie Whistler Dorrington, in Karrakatta Cemetery has been a highlight of 1998/9 for ANFA (WA). Half a year later, she now lies beneath a handsome monument befitting a woman who contributed much to our Australian heritage.

Annie was born in 1866, the daughter of Richard and Sarah Whistler of Foliejon Farm, Winkfield, Berkshire, England. Richard was a tenant farmer on the Foliejon Estate whose history dated back to the 1300s, and which adjoins Windsor Great Park. Annie spent a happy childhood at the farm with her six sisters and two brothers, riding their donkey, skating on the lake which froze in winter and teasing the old farmhand Ned, a veteran of the Battle of Waterloo. The children often glimpsed Queen Victoria riding through the park in her carriage. Later Annie and some of her sisters enjoyed painting scenes on the banks of the River Thames nearby. The family claimed relationship with the famous American painter, James Mc Neil Whistler, but this has yet to be conclusively proved.

In 1887 Annie's father died at the age of 52 and three years later, in 1890, Sarah Whistler emigrated to Melbourne, Victoria. She brought out all her nine children on the steamship SS Britannia. Shipboard life was their first introduction to electric light! It was an act of great courage for a widow with such a large family to take a leap to the other side of the world. On arrival in Melbourne the Whistlers made their home in Dandenong Road and all set about earning a living. Frank, one of Annie's brothers, set off to WA soon after to the goldfields and later, with Harry Dorrington, pioneered land in the Merredin district. The farming gene survives - a number of Whistlers still farm at Merredin and in other parts of WA.

Stepping back in time for a moment - at the time of Annie's father's death at Foliejon, it was necessary to appoint a bailiff to run the farm. The day the bailiff arrived, the sisters were all agog and pestering their mother as to what his name was. She replied rather tersely, It could be Ahasuerus for all I know! (Ahasuerus was a King in Ancient Persia). From then on the bailiff, Charles Dorrington, was known as Asu for short - and Annie used the nom de plume, Ahasuerus for her winning entry in the National Flag competition.

Charles and Harry Dorrington had also emigrated to Melbourne, and in 1892 Charles married Annie at St Albans Church in Armadale, Victoria. Charles and Annie moved across to the West in 1895, where Charles was initially manager of the Swan River Shipping Company and later shire clerk at Mundijong. Annie, about as far away on earth as one could get from the lush green meadows of Berkshire, found great beauty in her new environment - especially its wildflowers. Apart from her winning entry in the Flag Competition of 1901, her legacy to us is the one hundred and twenty-four exquisite wildflower paintings held by the Art Gallery of WA, four of which are currently displayed in the WA section of the Gallery.

Annie and Charles had no children and apart from painting busily we know that Annie also taught others to paint. Despite seeing great beauty about her Annie, sadly, suffered periods of depression, and died of cancer in 1926 at the age of 60. Despite the periods of unhappiness in her life we can cling to the belief in the great pleasure she undoubtedly gained from painting.

Halfway through 1998 Eric Carpenter, tireless Flag volunteer, noticed a car flying an Australian Flag in the Perth suburb of Balga. Seeing the same car in a supermarket carpark a few days later, he waylaid the owner, who turned out to be Lesley Little, daughter of Annie's cousin, Mrs Thelma Prestwood. So it was that the Association came to know of Annie lying close at hand in an unmarked grave at Karrakatta, and also learned that the Cemetery Board had been apprised of the significance of Annie's grave by her niece, Kath Dowsing. The challenge was impossible to resist!

After gaining approval from Annie's surviving relatives (nieces and nephews) and of the Cemetery Board, the lease was renewed by the Association and a handsome monument now stands on the previously bare sand. None of this could have occurred without trust and goodwill from the relatives, great co-operation from the Cemetery Board, some very generous donors and the efforts of the Flag Association volunteers!

When you visit Annie's grave (soon to be featured in the Karrakatta Historical Walk Trail) you will be impressed by the fine work of Claremont Monumental Works, the excellence of the Admiralty bronze plaque and the superb ceramic tile Flag, which was wrought by Ms Jodi Stone of Ceramica with lots of love and for a pittance!

The memorial grave was consecrated by the Dean of Perth, Dr John Shepherd, on a sunny day on 20th April, 1999, in a moving Service where the music was supplied by a brass ensemble from St Hildas. Relatives from far and wide, (Gippsland, NSW etc.), Flag Councillors, ANFA officials from other States, volunteer workers, donors, Cemetery Board representatives and friends of the Flag, in all numbering about a hundred people, were present. We believe we have guarded well this important part of our heritage.



## Dorrington, Annie (1866–1926)

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Supplementary Volume, (MUP), 2005

Annie Dorrington (1866-1926), artist, was born on 19 March 1866 at Litchfield Ashe, Southampton, England, second of nine children of Richard Whistler, farmer, and his wife Sarah Mills, née Vines; Richard was a distant relation of the artist James McNeil Whistler. When Annie was aged 4 her father became a tenant farmer at Winkfield, Berkshire. The children led an idyllic childhood near the Thames, riding ponies, painting and skating. Annie was pretty and petite, later only about 5 ft 2 ins (160 cm) tall, with dark, curly hair. Her father died in 1887 and with her mother and siblings she migrated to Victoria in the *Britannia* in 1890. Also on the ship was Charles Dorrington, the bailiff who had come to manage the farm after her father's death.

Charles and Annie married in St Alban's Church of England, Armadale, Melbourne, on 18 April 1892. The couple moved to Western Australia in 1895. They lived at Fremantle in 1897, and moved to Perth next year. Until 1914 Charles was the manager of the Swan River Shipping Co. With no children, Annie's life focussed on her art. She had begun to paint wildflowers and by 1901 had completed fifty-four, which she offered to sell to [Bernard Woodward](#), director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery. Her friend Alice Moore had picked many of the flowers in Kings Park and was given paintings in return. Annie taught painting privately from her home in 1902-06.

Adept at capturing the unusual local wildflowers, Dorrington exhibited watercolours in the Western Australian pavilion at the Paris (1900) and Glasgow (1902) international exhibitions. She also showed at the St Louis International Exposition (1904) in Missouri, United States of America, and some fifty of her paintings were included in the Franco-British Exhibition, London (1908).

Under the name 'Ahasuerus'—a pet name for her husband—in 1901 Annie entered an international competition to design an Australian flag. When the prime minister ([Sir Edmund Barton](#)) announced the joint winners of the prize of £200, she was the first named of the five whose designs were similar, all featuring the Southern Cross. The other winners were [I. W. Evans](#), L. J. Hawkins, E. J. Nuttall and William Stevens. The new flag was first raised on 3 September over the Exhibition Building in Melbourne.

Suffering bouts of depression, in 1908 Annie was admitted to the Claremont Mental Hospital for a few months treatment. In 1914 the couple moved to Serpentine where Charles farmed and grew fruit until 1922. He was also shire clerk of the Serpentine Jarrahdale Roads Board at Mundijong. In 1918 Annie had again been admitted to Claremont hospital. She died there of cancer on 21 April 1926 and was buried with Anglican rites in an unmarked grave in Karrakatta cemetery. Charles died in 1935 and next year 124 of Annie's works were given to the Art Gallery of Western Australia. Her paintings were displayed in a 1991 survey exhibition there and published in the resulting book. In 1999 the National Flag Association erected a memorial on her grave.



# Annie Dorrington

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

**Annie Dorrington** (19 March 1866 — 21 April 1926) was an Australian artist who was known for her wildflower paintings and watercolours. She is also one of the designers of the [Australian flag](#).

## Early life

On 19 March 1866, Annie Whistler was born at Litchfield Ashe, near Southampton, England. She was the second of nine children of Richard Whistler and his wife Sarah Mills (née Vines); she had six sisters and two brothers. Richard was a tenant farmer on the Foliejon Estate and farm in [Winkfield](#), Berkshire; the family claimed to be related to the artist [James McNeil Whistler](#), but this has not been proven.<sup>[1]</sup> The farm adjoined [Windsor Great Park](#), and Annie and her sisters sometimes saw [Queen Victoria](#) being driven through the park.<sup>[2]</sup> Annie began painting in childhood and she and her sisters enjoyed painting scenes on the banks of the Thames River.<sup>[3]</sup>

Richard Whistler died in 1887 and a bailiff named Charles Dorrington, who later became Annie's husband, came to manage the farm. When the Whistler sisters asked their mother the name of their prospective bailiff, she replied, "It could be [Ahasuerus](#) for all I know!" As a result, Charles Dorrington was known by the nickname 'Asu' from then on, and Annie would use 'Ahasuerus' as a pseudonym when she later entered Australia's national flag competition (see below).<sup>[3]</sup> Several years after Richard's death, Sarah emigrated to [Melbourne](#), Victoria, with all nine of her children. Charles Dorrington accompanied them, and in 1892 Charles and Annie were married in St. Alban's Church of England in [Armadale](#), a suburb of Melbourne. Sarah had not wanted Annie to marry Dorrington and cut her off entirely as a result. Many years later, Annie's niece Kath Dowsing would recall that her name was never mentioned in the family.<sup>[4]</sup> In 1895, Annie and Charles moved to Western Australia; they lived at [Fremantle](#) in 1897 before they moved to [Perth](#) in 1898. Charles worked for the Swan River Shipping Company in Perth until 1914, after which he became a shire clerk at [Mundijong](#).<sup>[3]</sup> The Dorringtons had no children.

## Art career

It was after the Dorringtons moved to Perth that Annie became known as a painter who specialized in watercolours of Western Australian wildflowers.<sup>[4]</sup> Her botanical paintings are for the most part moderately detailed and realistic, with some subjects painted in a more impressionistic style and with more vivid colours.<sup>[5]</sup> The subjects are often sprays of flowers with their leaves, isolated against a plain background. Typical of the plants she chose to depict are [Orthrosanthus laxus](#) (a small flower commonly known as morning iris), [Chamelaucium aurocladus](#) (known as waxflower), and [kangaroo paw](#). She gave some of her paintings to a friend, Alice Moore, who picked specimen flowers for her in Kings Park.

By 1901, Annie was exhibiting widely, with watercolours in the Western Australian pavilion at the 1900 [Paris International Exhibition](#), the 1901 [Glasgow International Exhibition](#), the 1904 [St. Louis International Exposition](#), and the 1908 [Franco-British Exhibition](#), London.<sup>[6]</sup> The London show included no less than 50 of her paintings.<sup>[1]</sup> She offered to sell some of them to [Bernard Woodward](#), director of the Western Australian Museum and Art Gallery, but without success.<sup>[1]</sup> To help support herself, Annie taught private painting classes at home from 1902 to 1906, advertising them in the local newspaper.<sup>[6]</sup>

In 1901, using the pseudonym 'Ahasuerus', Annie entered the [1901 Federal Flag Design Competition](#) to design a flag for Australia; hers was one of over 30,000 entries. She was the first named and only woman among the five entrants who submitted similar designs, all of which featured the constellation of the [Southern Cross](#). She split a prize of £200 with the other four other winners: Ivor Evans (a schoolboy), Leslie John Hawkins (an apprentice optician), Egbert John Nuttall (an architect), and William Stevens (a ship's officer).

Suffering from depression, Annie had treatments at Claremont Mental Hospital for a few months in 1908 and again in 1918. In 1914, she and her husband moved to Serpentine, where Charles became a farmer and fruit grower. Annie died there of cancer in 1926 at the age of 60 and was

buried in [Karrakatta](#) Cemetery in an unmarked grave. Charles died nine years later, in 1935, and the following year 124 of Annie's paintings were donated to the [Art Gallery of Western Australia](#). In 1991, her paintings were featured in a survey exhibition mounted by the gallery and subsequently reproduced in the resulting show catalogue.<sup>[5][1]</sup> In 1999, in honor of her contributions to Australian culture, a new monument to Annie Dorrington was erected at the cemetery.<sup>[3][2]</sup>

## References<sup>[edit]</sup>

---

1. ^ [Jump up to: ¶ § ¶](#) Erickson, Dorothy. "[Annie Dorrington \(1866-1926\)](#)". *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Supplementary Volume, 2005.
2. ^ [Jump up to: ¶ § ¶](#) Kennedy, Philip. "[The Annie Dorrington Story](#)" [Archived](#) December 19, 2014, at the [Wayback Machine](#). One Nation website.
3. ^ [Jump up to: ¶ § ¶](#) "[Annie Whistler Dorrington](#)". Australian Flag Association website.
4. ^ [Jump up to: ¶ § ¶](#) "[Australian Wildflowers and Flags](#)". Whistler Family Sketches website.
5. ^ [Jump up to: ¶ § ¶](#) Gooding, Janda. *Wildflowers in Art: Artists' Impressions of Western Australian Wildflowers, 1699-1991*. Art Gallery of Western Australia, 1991.
6. ^ ["News and Notes"](#). *The West Australian*, February 9, 1898.