

Anwyn Margaret Martin

Anwyn Margaret Martin (née Long) graduated BSc and MSc (1956) at the University of Wellington, New Zealand. Her long academic and activist commitment to the preservation of the environment was foreshadowed in her earliest academic publication. "Heavy mineral content and radioactivity counts of beach sands west of Oreti River mouth to Blue Cliffs, Southland, New Zealand", W. R. B. Martin & Anwyn M. Long, *New Zealand Journal of Geology and Geophysics*, 1960.

Anwyn married her co-author and they moved to Australia, where she became a Senior Research Chemist at Imperial Chemistry Industries (ICI), then home to some of the leading brands in the Australian agriculture, horticulture and hydroponic markets. Her research was recognised in membership of the Royal Society of Victoria, and she was also a foundation member of the more activist-oriented Clean Air Society of Victoria. Established as one of the first of such societies in Australia in the early 1960s this is now a branch of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand. In the same decade (1965) she became a life-long member of Graduate Women Victoria (then the Australian Federation of University Women Victoria).

Anwyn was also a member of the Association of Professional Engineers, Scientists and Managers, Australia, on whose behalf she made a submission (Number 21) to WOMEN IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY: A DISCUSSION PAPER PREPARED BY THE WOMEN IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY GROUP, MAY 1995.

Anwyn retired in 1998, disappointed by ICI Australia's reconstitution as Orica, a firm with a dramatic change of focus, becoming "the world's largest provider of commercial explosives and innovative blasting systems to the mining, quarrying, oil and gas and construction markets, a leading supplier of sodium cyanide for gold extraction, and a specialist provider of ground support services in mining and tunnelling."

Anwyn then turned her formidable energies to community service and environmental activism in her home territory of Gippsland. She had already stood (unsuccessfully) as a candidate for the Australian Labor Party in the Legislative Assembly seat of Gippsland West at the Victorian state election on 1 October 1988, but this did not destroy her enthusiasm.

In 2003, Anwyn was presented with the 2003 Bass Coast Citizen of the Year Award. The report in the *Bass Coast Local News* read:

Anwyn Martin from Corinella was today presented with the 2003 Bass Coast Citizen of the Year Award. Mrs Martin received the award for her tireless volunteer work at the Corinella Community Centre, and her tremendous commitment to the people of Corinella and district.

"I am very pleased to present this award to Mrs Martin for her unselfish and constant efforts on behalf of the people of Corinella and district," said Cr John Gains, Mayor of Bass Coast Shire Council. "Mrs Martin is well respected in the district and her contribution to the people and environment of the region is truly worthy of this award."

Mrs Martin is a volunteer coordinator and tutor at the Corinella and District Community Centre, as well as being a member of the management board. She arranges a variety of educational activities for people of all ages, from children through to senior citizens.

Mrs Martin has secured funding for the local playgroup and promotes the playgroup's activities to young families in the area. She attracts and promotes a wide range of services to the Community Centre that benefit the local community. This includes doctors, childcare workers, social workers and family care.

According to the nomination for Mrs Martin, her efforts have made the Corinella and District Community Centre a hive of activity and an essential resource for local people.

While Mrs Martin's work at the Centre focuses on improving things for local people now and in the future, she is also involved in preserving Corinella's past. Mrs Martin is a member of the Bass Valley Historical Society where she works to share the area's fascinating past with the community through research as well as writing publications.

It's not just the people of Corinella and District that have benefited from Mrs Martin's dedication. She is also involved in the welfare of the natural environment. Mrs Martin is an active member of the Bird Observers Club, the Friends of Bass Valley Bush and the Bass River Catchment.

Mrs Martin has also shown a particular interest in the waters of Westernport. She was a scientist at I.C.I.'s research laboratory for 25 years. Mrs Martin has been able to apply her scientific knowledge in relation to the environment of Westernport and has delivered papers and appeared in person to many committees set up in relation to Westernport.

Failing health did little to prevent Anwyn from active involvement. As late as 2018, very shortly before her death, she was pictured in her wheelchair, celebrating the completion of a boat launching ramp on the Corinella foreshore, a project she had chaired four years earlier.

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