

## Dr Joan Maie Freeman

At a graduation ceremony in the Great Hall on Friday 14 May 1993, an honorary Doctor of Science degree was conferred on Dr Joan Freeman, MSc *Sydney* PhD *Camb*, FIP FAPS.

### Report

Dr Freeman graduated in 1939 from Sydney with double First Class Honours in Mathematics and Physics. After experimental research work for an MSc, she joined the CSIRO and became a key member of the team that developed a ten centimeter microwave radar for war service - the foundation of Australia's post-war pre-eminence in radio astronomy. After studying at the Cavendish laboratory in Cambridge, she gained her PhD in 1949 in the field of radio-active decay of atomic nuclei. She pursued expanding opportunities at the Nuclear Physics Division of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell, which became her professional base from 1951 until her retirement in 1978.

Dr Freeman was joint winner of the 1976 Rutherford Medal and Prize of the British Institute of Physics.

*From 'The University of Sydney News', 8 June 1993*