



Patience Thoms OBE DUniv

From 1945–1976, Patience Thoms established herself as one of the most respected journalists in Queensland, becoming the first Women's News Editor of the Courier Mail in 1956.

Patience Thom's passion for the study of foreign languages brought her to Griffith in late 1976, where she applied for admission to the Bachelor of Arts program in the School of Modern Asian Studies. After graduating in 1980, she continued to work as a part-time public relations consultant for the School. Her positive attitude, her personal influence in the wider community, and her experience as a journalist were key ingredients in the establishment a highly successful publicity program for the School.

Patience Thom's association with Griffith was further enhanced through her membership of the University Council

from 1980–1994. As a long serving member of the governing body she provided practical advice and wise counsel which contributed greatly to the development of the University. In her role as Deputy Chancellor from 1988–1992, she was eloquent in speaking in support of Griffith and its achievements, and her formal and informal representations on the University's behalf were invaluable.

With her outstanding personal attributes, it is little wonder that Patience Thoms was involved in a number of important community leadership roles throughout her life. Significant positions included President of the Australian Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs (1960–1964) and President of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women (1968–1971) (the first Australian to hold this office).

