

## **Betty Allan: A statistical pioneer of Australian Science**

IPS: "Betty, Mario, Pilar, Danie and Esther: some important statisticians"

Frances Elizabeth (Betty) Allan (1905-1952) holds an esteemed position in Australian statistical science. From being born and growing up in Melbourne, she gained a studentship to study mathematics, statistics, applied biology and general agriculture at Cambridge, and spent time at Rothamsted Experimental Station with Sir Ronald Fisher. She returned to Australia in 1930 to the then Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (the precursor to current day CSIRO) where she became CSIRO's first statistician. She pioneered the use of statistics and biometrics in many projects in agriculture, and ably demonstrated the considerable value and insight they can provide. In doing so she was the catalyst for a rich tradition of deeply coupling statistical and data science with domain knowledge in CSIRO and Australia more generally. This talk will summarise some of Betty's accomplishments and contributions, and some of the challenges that she had to overcome.

Keywords: Statistics, Biometrics, CSIRO, Australia