



# South African Radio League Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

**Iris Hayes ZS2AA**  
Inducted in 2016

Iris was born in Queenstown in October 1903 the granddaughter of a former Lieutenant-Governor of Kaffraria. She qualified as a nurse and married Samuel Hayes. They farmed at Whittlesea near Queenstown. Sammy died in 1973. Iris suffered a stroke which confined her to bed, shortly after her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. She died in May 1999.

Iris developed an interest in amateur radio after hearing radio amateurs conversing on her radiogram. She was licenced in 1937, the first female radio amateur in South Africa. She set up a large station on the farm, using rhombic antennas. She started with a 2½ W transmitter, which later grew to 10 and 50 W, allowing her to work 97 countries.

On the 2nd June, 1952, the S.A. Women's Radio Club came into being, with Iris Hayes, ZS2AA, as Organizing President, Muriel Neill ZS5KG, Vice-President Marie Cormack ZS6KK, Diana Green ZS6GH, as organising Secretary, the subscription being the magnificent sum of 50 cents. On formation, 33 ladies joined and by the end of 1952, the club had 71 members, consisting of YL amateurs and interested listeners.

Iris was also an ardent member of the World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs and Listeners (WACRAL).

Iris was the Chairman of the Whittlesea branch of the Red Cross for 23 years. During the Second World War, she was a Commandant of the SA Women's Auxiliary Association.

She was the President of the Young Ladies' Radio League (YLRL) in 1950. Iris earned a Worked All ZS certificate in 1962. During 1981, she spent three months in the USA and Canada, mostly being met at the airport by her radio amateur hosts.

In March 1994, she was the keynote speaker at the SARL AGM in Port Elizabeth, and presented the SARL awards at the Awards Dinner.

Iris was awarded the SARL Honorary Life membership in 1985

In 1996, she was unanimously elected as Honorary Life President of the Border Radio Club.



To put the S.A. Woman's Radio Club on the map, the club issued two Certificates, the W.A.Y.L. (Worked All YL), the rules being drafted in Division 1 with the help of Iris Hayes, ZS2AA, in 1955, and the K.K.K. (Key Keen Klub) being suggested by Gwen Smith, ZS1NQ).

To obtain the W.A.Y.L. Certificate, amateurs must work 12 LYLs in Southern Africa, south of the former Belgian Congo from the 2nd June, 1952, submitting QSLs and enclosing a remittance of 25 cents. For the K.K.K. Certificate, copies of Logs must be sent duly certified for 100 C.W. contacts, 500 or 1000, together with 50 cents. Contacts must be made from the 31 December, 1956. Certificates were free to SAWRC members.