

Williams, Sue 2021, *Elizabeth and Elizabeth*, Allen and Unwin, Australia.

This book is the story of an unlikely friendship between two of the most influential women in the early nineteenth century of colonial Australia.

Elizabeth (Betsy) Macquarie was the young wife of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. Dismayed by the squalor of the colony on her arrival, and frustrated by a role centred on domesticity, she became a powerful exponent of social reform and the grand architecture of some of our most recognisable public buildings.

Elizabeth Macarthur managed one of the colony's most well-known farms, often in the absence of her husband, John Macarthur. Today, she is recognised as one of the most influential pioneers in the development of the Merino sheep bloodlines that became the basis of early Australian prosperity.

This is a beautifully crafted and fascinating account of the life of these two women in colonial Australia. The author has extensively researched Betsy Macquarie's diaries, and includes many poignant excerpts.

Sue Williams is a popular author, award-winning journalist and university lecturer who has worked in the UK, New Zealand and Australia.

Review by Evelyn Roberts, Tuesday, 2 August 2022.