

HerStory



Women commemorated in the City of Port Phillip



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The City of Port Phillip has a rich 'herstory' of inspiring women who have made significant contributions to local politics, literature, the arts, sport, health, education and to our wider community.

This 'HerStory' map displays the places where women have been recognised and honoured in street names, parks and gardens, buildings and on monuments and other public artworks.

'HerStory' celebrates women's stories and achievements in the City of Port Phillip, but this map is just the beginning. There are many hidden stories to tell, and many more women who deserve to be commemorated.

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To discover more stories



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1 OLIVE ZAKHAROV (1929-1995)



'Olive's Corner', Liardet and Lalor Streets, Port Melbourne

Olive Zakharov entered Parliament in 1983 and served as an Australian Labor Party senator for Victoria until her death in 1995. Olive was unashamedly feminist and championed the rights of the disadvantaged.

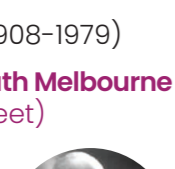
2 NORMA BARNETT (1928-2002)



Norma Barnett Lane, Port Melbourne (adjacent Raglan Street)

Norma Barnett worked at the Melbourne City Mission from 1953. She held Bible classes and religious services, fed the homeless, ran popular boys' and girls' clubs and looked after disadvantaged people in Port Melbourne in many ways.

3 DORIS CONDON (1908-1979)



Doris Condon Lane, South Melbourne (adjacent 11 Perrins Street)

Doris Condon was Mayor of City of South Melbourne in 1969 and served as a councillor for 12 years. In 1975 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in recognition of her service to local government.

4 EDYTHE McCALLUM (1917-2011)



Edythe McCallum Reserve, South Melbourne

Edythe McCallum was the Senior Social Worker for the City of South Melbourne from 1962 to 1981. She made an outstanding contribution to the community as a pioneer in social planning, housing and community development.

5 LILIAN CANNAM (1869-1949)



Lilian Cannam Kindergarten, 97 Eastern Road, South Melbourne

Lilian Cannam Kindergarten has been operating in the South Melbourne area since 1922. It was named after its founder and first President, Lilian Cannam who served, supported and sustained the kindergarten for many years.

6 MARIA STARCEVIC (AUNTY MARIA) (1933-2011)

'Maria's Story', Corner Napier and Church Streets, South Melbourne

Maria Starcevic was taken from her mother as a baby and placed in St Vincent De Paul Orphanage for Girls in South Melbourne. Maria was Koori and an advocate for Aboriginal people. Her story was given to the Royal Commission into the Stolen Generations. The bronze sculpture of a wooden chair and shoes is by artist Julie Shiels.

7 MARY MACKILLOP (1842-1909)



Mackillop Family Services, 237 Cecil Street, South Melbourne

Mary MacKillop was an Australian religious sister, social reformer and educator who has been declared a saint by the Catholic Church. St Mary of the Cross MacKillop is the patron of the Archdiocese of Brisbane.

8 NELL McLARTY BEM (1912-1998)

McLarty Lane, South Melbourne (Between Iffla and Tribe Streets)

Nell (Ellen) McLarty was a cricketer who played for the Australian women's cricket team between 1934 and 1937. She played in the first women's test match. In 1980, Nell was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to women's cricket.

9 WOMEN'S WELCOME HOME COMMITTEE

World War I Memorial Rotunda, Beach Street, Port Melbourne (opposite Stokes Street)

The Women's Welcoming Committee (WWC) was established in 1915 to welcome home troop ships that arrived in Port Melbourne. In 1918, the WWC organised the building of a Band Rotunda – one of the earliest World War I memorials in Australia.

10 WORLD WAR 1 NURSES

Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial, Lemnos Square, Albert Park

The Lemnos Gallipoli Memorial by artist Peter Corlett OAM commemorates nurses who served on the island (such as local Staff Nurses Victoria Emilie Drewett of Port Melbourne and Clarice Jessie Daley of Elwood), caring for the sick and wounded Anzacs.

11 AILEEN 'MAC' KENNEDY BEM (d1980)



Aileen "Mac" Kennedy Pavilion, South Melbourne Life Saving Club, 72B Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park

Aileen Kennedy BEM (known as 'Mac') was secretary of the South Melbourne Life Saving Club from 1944 until her death in 1980. Mac was awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to life saving. She was a great role model to women in both lifesaving and athletics.

12 MARY KEHOE BEM (1897-1985)



Mary Kehoe Community Centre 224 Danks Street, Albert Park

Mary Kehoe worked to help underprivileged citizens by providing food and other home help. She was awarded the British Empire Medal for "outstanding service in many charitable fields and, in particular, to the elderly citizens of South Melbourne". Mary was honoured in the naming of this Senior Citizens' Centre in 1984.

13 ESTHER AND BETTY PATERSON (Esther 1892-1971; Betty 1894-1970)



Heritage plaque on family home, 258 Beaconsfield Parade, Middle Park

Esther and Elizabeth (Betty) Paterson were artists born into Melbourne's elite bohemian set. Esther was best known for her streetscapes and landscapes, but also gained a reputation for her illustrations and cartoons. Her sister Betty specialised in art deco cartoons and became artist-by-appointment to the flappers.

14 AUNTIE JUDY (JUDY HANLEY) (1960-2021)



Commemorative bench, Cleve Gardens, St Kilda

Auntie Judy Hanley was a Taungurung woman known for her love of people. She worked in St Kilda for most of her career and endeavoured to make a bad situation better. She made the world around her a better place for many people.

15 MIRKA MORA (1928-2018)



Mirka Lane, St Kilda

Mirka Mora was an artist with an unmistakable style. She left distinctive brush marks across Melbourne, but nowhere was her art more visible than in St Kilda, where she lived and worked for decades. In 2001, Mirka Lane was named in commemoration of the artist.

16 BETTY DAY (1921-2007)



Betty Day Community Centre 67 Argyle Street, St Kilda

Betty Day volunteered at the Cora Graves Community Centre in St Kilda every day for 23 years, providing valuable help to the elderly. The former City of St Kilda honoured her by naming a purpose-built Community Centre after her in 1987.

17 VIDA GOLDSTEIN (1869-1949)



Heritage plaque on family home 131 Alma Road, St Kilda

Vida Goldstein was an Australian feminist and social activist. She helped women gain the right to vote in Australia. She was also an international figure in the fight for women's equality. In 2001, she was inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women.

18 ALMA ROACH (AUNTY ALMA) (1942-2003)

'Aunty Alma's Seats', O'Donnell Gardens, Shakespeare Grove, St Kilda

O'Donnell Gardens is a contemporary Indigenous meeting place next to Luna Park. Bronze milk crates by sculptor Julie Shiels commemorate important Aboriginal elders and specifically Aunty Alma Roach for her work with the community.

19 EDITH CAVELL (1865-1915)



Cavell Street, St Kilda

Edith Cavell was an English nurse, recognised as a pioneer of modern nursing in Belgium. She saved the lives of many soldiers during World War I. Edith was executed in 1915 for assisting Allied soldiers in escaping German-occupied Belgium.

20 LOUISA BRIGGS (1836-1925)



First Peoples landmark sign, Peanut Farm Reserve, St Kilda

Louisa Briggs, great grandmother of N'arweet Carolyn Briggs - Boon Wurrung elder - was an Aboriginal leader, dormitory matron and nurse. Having experienced kidnapping, forced work and dispossession, Louisa became a strong political and land rights activist who fought oppression, racism and inequality.

21 SPACE2b SOCIAL DESIGN

Murals of multicultural women 144 Chapel Street, St Kilda

Space2b is a social enterprise established to support people seeking asylum, refugees and newly arrived migrants. The art and design hub includes a retail outlet, gallery, laneway café, design studio, training and small business space. Colourful murals of multicultural women adorn the side wall of the building.

22 LADY FORSTER (1868-1962)



Lady Forster Kindergarten, 63B Ormond Esplanade, Elwood

Rachel Forster was a charity worker and wife of the seventh Governor-General of Australia, Henry Forster. She was the benefactress of the kindergarten, originally established in Port Melbourne, which bears her name. She was known for her great interest in women's welfare.

For more information:

ASSIST 03 9209 6777

portphillip.vic.gov.au



We respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land, the people of the Kulin Nations. We pay our respect to their Elders, past and present. We acknowledge and uphold their continuing relationship to this land.