



St Hilda's
ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

1896-2026
Trailblazers



*Since its founding in 1896,
St Hilda's has built a proud
legacy of academic
excellence and leadership*

For 130 years, St Hilda's has been shaping generations of young women who go on to make meaningful contributions in their fields and communities.

At St Hilda's, leadership is intentionally cultivated in every girl, every year, through a holistic approach that spans curriculum, cocurricular opportunities, service learning and wellbeing. Grounded in a deep understanding of identity, voice and agency, students are empowered to lead with confidence and compassion, continuing a tradition of excellence that has defined the School for more than a century.

Today, this legacy is reflected in the 130 St Hilda's trailblazers who have emerged from the School; women distinguished not only by their achievements, but by their character, courage and purpose.

Discover the inspiring stories of our remarkable 130 Trailblazers.



St Hilda's
ANGLICAN SCHOOL FOR GIRLS



Dr Amy Finlay-Jones

Medicine, Research

Graduated: 2000

Amy Finlay-Jones is a researcher and leader in child development and mental health, serving as Head of the Early Neurodevelopment and Mental Health team at The Kids Research Institute Australia.

Her work focuses on improving mental health, wellbeing and developmental outcomes in early childhood, with a particular passion for supporting young people living with chronic illness and disability. Through her research, she seeks to enhance quality of life and create better long-term outcomes for children and families.

Amy also has a strong interest in contemplative science and positive psychology and has undertaken international training in mindfulness and compassion-based interventions. Her work combines research, innovation and practical strategies to promote resilience and wellbeing from an early age.



Dr Anna Gray (AM)

Historian, Curator, Author

Graduated: 1964

Anna Gray is a distinguished art historian, curator and writer who has devoted more than four decades to the study and promotion of Australian art.

Her extensive museum career includes roles as Head of Australian Art at the Australian War Memorial, Director of the Lawrence Wilson Art Gallery at The University of Western Australia, and Educator at the Art Gallery of Western Australia. She has curated around 40 exhibitions, featuring artists such as Constable, Frederick McCubbin, Tom Roberts and Arthur Streeton.

A respected author and independent curator, Anna has published widely on Australian art and has also contributed to children's storytelling, writing, adapting and performing stories for the ABC. Through her scholarship and curatorial work, she has helped deepen public appreciation of Australia's artistic heritage.



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Anne Deveson (AO)

Writer, Broadcaster, Filmmaker

Graduated: 1942

Anne Deveson was a renowned Australian writer, broadcaster and filmmaker, best known as one of the pioneers of talkback radio through her work on Sydney's 2GB.

Throughout her distinguished career, Anne served as Chair of the South Australian Film Corporation and Executive Director of the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, helping to shape Australia's media and creative industries.

A passionate advocate for social justice, she championed the rights of women, children and people with disability, using her voice and influence to drive meaningful change in the community.

She was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 1983 for service to the media and an Officer of the Order of Australia in 1993 for service to community health.



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Anne Lewis

Aviation

Graduated: 1944

Anne Lewis was a trailblazer in Australian aviation, becoming the first woman pilot to fly for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the first woman in Western Australia to hold a commercial pilot's licence.

In 1944, she joined the Women's Royal Australian Air Force (WRAAF), paving the way for a remarkable career in aviation. She later travelled to the United Kingdom in 1950, where she became one of only 12 women pilots serving in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Through her determination and pioneering spirit, Anne broke barriers in a male-dominated industry and inspired future generations of women to pursue careers in aviation.





Anneke Brown

Hospitality /Consultancy

Graduated: 1994

Anneke Brown is a highly regarded hospitality and tourism executive whose career has spanned luxury hotel development, operations and leadership across Australia and around the world.

An expert in hotel project development and management, she has held international roles with Aman Resorts, including serving as Global Director of Training for resort openings in Cambodia, India, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Caribbean. In Australia, she has held senior management positions in Margaret River, Uluru and as General Manager of COMO The Treasury in Perth.

Drawing on her extensive industry experience, Anneke now manages her own consultancy advising the tourism sector on the national and international stage.



Annette Henwood

Farming

Graduated: 1960

Annette Henwood was a highly respected figure in Kimberley pastoral life who, alongside her husband John, was recognised as a Rural Achiever of the Year by the Pastoralists and Graziers Association for their significant contribution to the industry.

The couple spent five decades living and working on Fossil Downs Station, a property that had been part of Annette's family for generations. Their dedication helped shape the station's rich legacy and enduring place in the Kimberley region.

Known for her commitment to the pastoral community and deep connection to the land, Annette played an important role in preserving the traditions and history of one of Western Australia's most iconic cattle stations, which was sold to Gina Rinehart in 2015.





Ariane Prevost

Architecture

Graduated: 1976

Ariane Prevost is an award-winning architect known for her elegant designs and commitment to the philosophy that “less is more.” Her work is characterised by simplicity, functionality and a strong connection to place.

Throughout her career, Ariane has created a number of acclaimed residential projects, including her own home, which was featured on the ABC television program *Grand Designs*. Her celebrated Marimekko House also attracted national attention and was featured in numerous architectural publications.

Recognised for her innovative and thoughtful approach to architecture, Ariane has made a significant contribution to contemporary Australian design, creating homes that are both visually striking and highly liveable.



Ariel Bombara

Women's Rights

Graduated: 2013

Ariel Bombara has transformed personal tragedy into a powerful platform for change, using her voice to raise awareness of domestic and family violence and advocate for safer communities.

A professional digital, programmatic and social media consultant, Ariel is also an active advocate with the Centre for Women's Safety and Wellbeing, where she works to highlight the impact of domestic violence and support efforts to prevent it.

Through her advocacy, Ariel has helped bring greater attention to this critical issue, demonstrating courage, resilience and a commitment to creating meaningful change for women and families across Western Australia.





Barbara-Dene Jones

Business

Graduated: 1975

Barbara-Dene Jones has enjoyed a diverse and successful career spanning business, community service and volunteer leadership. After completing a Commerce degree at The University of Western Australia, she built and managed several ventures, including transforming a loss-making city lunch bar into a profitable business, founding a sportswear and promotional products company, and developing childcare centres.

A committed community contributor, Barbara-Dene has been involved with a range of organisations and initiatives, including Zonta, Perth Zoo and the Royal Agricultural Society of WA. Her dedication to service has complemented a lifelong interest in business and leadership.

A passionate sailor, she has been a longstanding volunteer with the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club, where she became its first female Flag Officer. She also serves as a Justice of the Peace, reflecting her ongoing commitment to supporting the WA community.



Bec Johnson

Public Health

Graduated: 2000

Bec Johnson is a passionate advocate for people living with Type 1 diabetes. After being diagnosed with the condition in 2001, she went on to found the Type 1 Diabetes Family Centre, serving as its CEO and helping to create vital support services for those affected.

With qualifications in Law and Arts from UWA, a Master of Public Health from the University of Sydney, and a Diploma of Business (Governance), Bec has combined professional expertise with lived experience to drive meaningful change in health and community services.

Bec is an Adjunct Research Fellow at Curtin University, a Fellow of both the Australian Institute of Community Directors and Leadership WA, and was the only Australian selected as a Fellow of the global Facebook Community Leadership Program. Her leadership and innovation have been widely recognised, including receiving a \$50,000 award to support her initiatives and expand her impact within the community.





Judge Belinda Lonsdale

Law

Graduated: 1986

Belinda Lonsdale is a District Court judge who has built a distinguished legal career across both prosecution and defence, working on some of Western Australia's most high-profile cases.

Before her appointment to the District Court in 2017, Belinda worked extensively in criminal law, representing clients for both the prosecution and defence. Much of her practice involved legal aid and pro bono work, reflecting a strong commitment to ensuring access to justice.

Respected for her expertise, integrity and dedication to the law, Belinda has made a significant contribution to Western Australia's legal profession and judicial system.



Professor Bryden Stanley

Veterinary Science

Graduated: 1975

Bryden Stanley is an internationally respected veterinary surgeon, academic and researcher. She is Emeritus Professor of Surgery at Michigan State University and has served as Chair of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, reflecting her significant contributions to the field of veterinary medicine.

After completing a Master's degree at the University of Saskatchewan, Bryden built a distinguished career in veterinary surgery, with her research and clinical work widely published in leading professional journals.

Today, she continues to share her expertise in specialist private practice at the Animal Surgical Centre in Michigan, where she is recognised for her leadership, innovation and commitment to advancing animal health and welfare.





Professor Carol Bower (AC)

Medical Research

Graduated: 1964

Carol Bower (Stagbouer) is a distinguished medical researcher whose career has focused on epidemiology and public health, particularly in the areas of birth defects, maternal and child health, and preventive healthcare.

Her research has made a significant contribution to the surveillance, prevention, diagnosis and management of birth defects and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, helping to improve health outcomes for children and families.

Recognised for her expertise and leadership in public health, Carol is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Public Health Association of Australia. Her work has played an important role in advancing public health research and policy in Australia.



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Carol Coombe

Acting

Graduated: 1920s

Carol Coombe was a former Girls' High School student who pursued her dream of acting at a time when few young Australian women ventured overseas to build careers in the performing arts.

In 1930, she left Perth for London and secured a speaking role in the film *The Ghost Train*, despite having no prior acting experience. Her talent and determination opened doors to further opportunities, including a brief period working in Hollywood.

After marrying, Carol stepped away from the industry for a decade before later returning to acting. Her life and career reflected both ambition and resilience, although it was tragically cut short when she died in a car accident in Italy in 1966.





Professor Carolyn Oldham (AM)

Science, Research

Graduated: 1979

Carolyn Oldham is a Professor in the School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering at The University of Western Australia and a leading researcher in environmental engineering.

After completing a Bachelor of Science with Honours in Chemistry and a PhD in Environmental Engineering, she developed expertise in the environmental processes that influence water quality and ecosystem health. Her doctoral research examined the effects of turbulence on oxygen variation in lakes.

Carolyn's interdisciplinary research spans transport processes, environmental chemistry and spatial and temporal variability in natural systems. Her work has led to collaborations with hydrologists, oceanographers, estuarine scientists and groundwater researchers, contributing to a deeper understanding of aquatic and environmental systems.



Professor Catherine Cole

Medicine

Graduated: 1978

Catherine Cole is a highly regarded Professor of Paediatric Haematology and Oncology who has dedicated much of her career to caring for children and teenagers diagnosed with blood disorders and cancer, particularly leukaemia.

Through her work, Catherine has played a vital role in diagnosing, treating and supporting young patients and their families during some of their most challenging times. Her expertise and compassionate approach have contributed to advances in paediatric cancer care and improved outcomes for countless children.

Driven by a commitment to both clinical excellence and patient wellbeing, Catherine has made a significant impact in the field of paediatric medicine, helping to improve the lives of young people facing serious illness.





Catherine Edwards

Technology, Business

Graduated: 1999

Catherine Edwards is a technology leader and entrepreneur who has played a significant role in shaping the search experiences used by millions of people worldwide. As Vice President of Engineering at Google, she spent more than 15 years working on search technologies, including co-leading Google Search.

Before joining Google, Catherine founded the shopping start-up Undecidable Labs, which was later acquired by the company. She also led search initiatives at Apple following the acquisition of her earlier start-up, Chomp, in 2012, demonstrating a remarkable track record of innovation in technology and product development.

A graduate of The UWA, Catherine holds a Bachelor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences with majors in Computer Science and Pure Mathematics, as well as a Diploma in Linguistics. Her career reflects a unique combination of technical expertise, entrepreneurial vision and leadership in the global technology sector.



Catherine Small

Education

Era: 1930s

Catherine Small was the founding Headmistress of St Hilda's when the school opened in 1931, following the acquisition of the former Girls' High School by the Anglican Church and its relocation to a new campus.

Originally from England, she was widely respected for her educational rigour, strong leadership and dedication to academic excellence. She guided the school through some of its most challenging early years, including the Great Depression and World War II.

Under Catherine's leadership, St Hilda's established the foundations of its reputation as a leading girls' school, and her influence helped shape the school's culture and values for generations to come.





Catrina Aniere (OAM)

Education

Graduated: 1978

Catrina Aniere is CEO and founder of Millennium Kids, a youth-led environmental organisation empowering young people based in WA.

She recognises that while young people have the creative ideas, innovative thinking and problem-solving skills needed to face the challenges of the 21st century, they sometimes need a little support.

Since their beginnings in 1996, Millennium Kids has grown to involve hundreds of schools and thousands of young people locally, regionally and nationally, with project collaborations in South Africa, Indonesia and the UK .

In 2025, Catrina was recognised for her work, receiving the Medal of the Order of Australia (General Division) and the Edith Cowan University Alumni Community and Impact Award.



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Caty Price

Media, Journalism

Graduated: 1999

Caty Price is an experienced television presenter and journalist with more than 15 years in the media industry, specialising in television across news, sport, lifestyle and entertainment.

Known for her engaging on-screen presence and live broadcasting expertise, Caty has worked across a wide range of major sporting events and competitions. Her experience includes roles as a host and boundary rider covering Big Bash League cricket, horse racing, Australian rules football, swimming, basketball and netball.

Through her versatility and professionalism, Caty has built a successful career in Australian media, connecting audiences with stories and sporting moments through compelling and dynamic television coverage.





Charlotte Hamlyn

Journalism, Broadcaster

Graduated: 2004

Charlotte Hamlyn is an accomplished journalist and broadcaster with the ABC, known for her work as both a reporter and news presenter covering stories from across Western Australia.

Throughout her career, Charlotte has reported on major breaking news events, crime, natural disasters and significant community issues, delivering accurate and timely coverage to audiences across the State.

Committed to telling stories that matter, she has built a reputation for insightful reporting and engaging journalism, helping to keep communities informed while highlighting the people and events shaping Western Australia.



Clare Hughes

Performing Arts

Graduated: 2018

Clare Hughes is an emerging Australian actor who graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) in 2022 and quickly established herself as a promising talent in film and theatre.

She made her professional screen debut in the ABC series *Ladies in Black*, portraying Lisa, an ambitious university student. Her performance showcased the skill and presence that have marked her early career.

Demonstrating her versatility as a performer, Clare also starred in a one-woman theatre production at Sydney's Old Fitz Theatre. The work received critical recognition, being shortlisted for the Rodney Seaborn Playwright's Award and longlisted for the Griffin Award.





Captain Danielle Lindelsee

Aviation

Graduated: 1987

Danielle Lindelsee (Inglis) has built an impressive international career in aviation, following a family tradition and passion for flying that has taken her from Australia to the United States.

After earning her commercial pilot's licence in Florida, Danielle flew with a regional airline operating out of New York's LaGuardia Airport, gaining valuable experience in one of the world's busiest aviation environments.

She later went on to work as an instructor with United Airlines, helping to train the next generation of pilots at one of the world's largest aviation training facilities. Now based in Denver, Colorado, Danielle continues to contribute to the aviation industry through her expertise, leadership and commitment to excellence.



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Davilia O'Connor

Performing Arts

Graduated: 1956

Davilia O'Connor is an accomplished actor whose career has spanned stage, film, television and radio in both Australia and the United Kingdom. After moving to the UK in her twenties, she built a successful acting career across a range of performance mediums before returning to Perth in 2010.

Since returning to Western Australia, Davilia has continued to work extensively in the arts, with screen credits including the ABC drama *The Heights*, the independent film *Decadent and Depraved*, and *Go!*.

In addition to her work as a performer, she has contributed to the development of future generations of artists through her role as Acting Director of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA), reinforcing her longstanding commitment to the performing arts.





Davina Bell

Author

Graduated: 1999

Davina Bell is an award-winning children's author based in Melbourne whose books have been published and celebrated around the world. Renowned for her ability to connect with young readers, her work explores themes of courage, kindness, imagination and resilience.

Davina is a two-time recipient of both the Australian Book Industry Awards' Picture Book of the Year and the Children's Book Council of Australia's Book of the Year for Older Readers. She has also been honoured with the NSW Premier's Literary Award for Young People's Literature, recognising her outstanding contribution to children's and young adult literature.

Before becoming a full-time writer, Davina worked as an editor and publisher in children's books, developing a deep understanding of storytelling and the publishing industry. Today, she continues to inspire readers of all ages through her acclaimed books and enduring passion for literature.



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Davinia Lefroy (PLY)

Sport

Graduated: 1998

Davinia Lefroy is a Paralympian rower who made history in 2016.

She competed in the mixed coxed fours to qualify Australia's first boat in the LTA class at a Paralympics.

The team was placed fourth in their heat and third in the repechage, winning their final to place sixth overall.



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Deidre Willmott (AM)

Commerce

Graduated: 1978

Deidre Willmott is a respected business and community leader who has held influential roles across both the public and private sectors in Western Australia.

She served as Chief Executive of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA and held senior government positions, including Chief of Staff to former Western Australian Premiers Richard Court and Colin Barnett. Her leadership experience also includes executive roles with the Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee and Fortescue Metals Group.

Deidre has also made significant contributions to the community through governance roles, including serving as Chair of Council at St Hilda's, Councillor of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA), and a member of The Perth Diocesan Trustees. Her distinguished career reflects a strong commitment to leadership, public service and the advancement of Western Australia.



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Diana Warnock (OAM)

Media, Author, Politics

Graduated: 1957

Diana Warnock (Robinson) is a former journalist, broadcaster, author, state parliamentarian and longtime advocate for women's rights and social justice in Western Australia.

Throughout her varied career, she worked with the ABC before entering politics, where she became known for her commitment to equality, human rights and community issues. As a Member of the Western Australian Parliament, she played a prominent role in shaping public policy and legislative reform.

One of her most significant achievements was helping to steer landmark abortion law reform through State Parliament in 1998, legislation that decriminalised abortion in Western Australia and expanded women's access to reproductive healthcare. Her leadership and advocacy have had a lasting impact on public life in Western Australia.



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Dorothy Lucy Sanders

Author

Graduated: 1925

Dorothy Lucy Sanders (McClemans) was a prolific Western Australian author who wrote numerous novels under the pen name Lucy Walker, many of them inspired by the landscapes and communities of regional WA.

A dedicated contributor to Australia's literary community, she was a member of the Society of Women Writers and Journalists in London, the Fellowship of Australian Writers and the Australian Society of Authors. Using her married name, Sanders also served on the Library Board of WA and the ABC's local advisory committee.

Her legacy extends beyond literature, with her son, Jon Sanders, earning international recognition as a round-the-world solo sailor.



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Elisabeth Allen

Education

Era: 1898

Elisabeth Allen was a passionate advocate for the education of women and one of the pioneering sisters who established the school in Claremont that later became Girls' High School, the precursor to St Hilda's.

At a time when educational opportunities for girls were limited, Claremont Ladies' College provided an important pathway for young women seeking further education. Through her vision and commitment, Elisabeth helped lay the foundations for generations of girls to pursue learning and achievement.

Her contribution played a significant role in the development of girls' education in Western Australia and in the history of one of the State's leading schools.





Elizabeth Edmondson (PLY)

Sport

Graduated: 1967

Elizabeth Edmondson is an accomplished Paralympic swimmer who won her first Paralympic medals at just 14 years of age, launching a remarkable sporting career on the international stage.

A passionate advocate for people with disability, Elizabeth has been recognised for both her athletic achievements and community contributions. She was awarded the Australian Sports Medal in 2000 and has been inducted into the Wheelchair Sports WA Hall of Fame and the Swimming WA Hall of Legends.

In 2024, Elizabeth's outstanding legacy was further recognised with her induction into the Australian Paralympian Hall of Fame, celebrating her impact as both an athlete and role model.



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Elizabeth Oliver

Healthcare

Graduated: 1997

Elizabeth Oliver is an occupational therapist who has dedicated more than 20 years to improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life of older adults.

Passionate about meaningful ageing, she has championed innovative programs that foster connection and engagement, including intergenerational initiatives, art and drama groups, and volunteer-led community activities.

Elizabeth's expertise in aged care was showcased through her involvement in the ABC documentary series Maggie Beer's Big Mission, which explored ways to improve nutrition, wellbeing and mealtime experiences for people living in residential aged care.





Emily Kempin

Research, Sport

Graduated: 2012

Emily Kempin has built a unique and inspiring career spanning science, education and sport. After studying genetics and archaeology at The University of Western Australia, including Honours research into rare diseases, she completed a Master's degree in Bioarchaeology and Forensic Anthropology at the University of Exeter before joining the Genetics Department at the University of Cambridge as a safety officer.

A passionate rower during her time at St Hilda's, Emily later combined her love of sport with her professional expertise, making a career change to become a Regional Talent Coach for Yorkshire as part of the British Rowing GB Development Squad.

In this role, she works to identify and develop future Olympians while helping to raise the profile of rowing, inspiring the next generation of athletes to reach their potential.



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Dr Emily Leung

Medicine, Music, Education

Graduated: 2014

Emily Leung has combined outstanding achievements in both medicine and music. A gifted violinist, she earned her Licentiate of Music in Year 8 and her Fellowship of Music in Year 11, before completing a Bachelor of Music (Violin Performance) with Distinction at the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University Bloomington, in 2019.

Returning to Australia, Emily completed a Doctor of Medicine with Distinction in 2024. Following her internship and residency at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, she joined The University of Western Australia Medical School as a Clinical Lecturer, contributing to the education of future medical professionals.

Alongside her medical career, Emily continues to pursue her passion for music and regularly performs with the WA Doctors' Orchestra, exemplifying a rare combination of artistic excellence and clinical achievement.





Emmelia Snook (OLY)

Sport

Graduated: 1980

Emmelia Snook is an accomplished Australian rower who enjoyed significant success at the elite level, establishing herself as one of the nation's leading athletes in the sport.

Over a six-year period, she won 12 national championships and represented Australia at four World Rowing Championships. Her achievements culminated in selection for the Australian team at the Barcelona Olympic Games, where she competed in the women's coxless four event.

Emmelia's dedication, consistency and success on the international stage have earned her recognition as one of Western Australia's outstanding rowing athletes.



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Erika Dizon

Education

Graduated: 2014

Erika Dizon is an indigenous teacher who is working for the Aurora Education Foundation in a Scholarship leader role, leading and administering two international scholarship programs; Charlie Perkins and Roberta Sykes. She supports Indigenous post-graduate students who are attending the most prestigious universities such as Oxford and Harvard by providing wraparound support throughout the duration of their studies. She also leads the domestic scholarship program, First Nations Cancer Scholarship.

Previously Erika worked as a Project Officer for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Perth, creating and developing the Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP); a significant role for the future of both the Diocese of Perth and Aboriginal people as it is the first of many actions that acknowledges generational trauma and how to 'Close the Gap'.





Dr Esther Davis

Medicine, Research

Graduated: 2002

Esther Davis is a cardiologist and researcher at the Victorian Heart Hospital, the Southern Hemisphere's only hospital dedicated exclusively to heart health.

After completing her medical degree at The University of Western Australia, Esther earned a Master's degree in Bioethics from Monash University and undertook a bioethics fellowship with the World Health Organization in Geneva. She later studied at the University of Oxford as a Clarendon Scholar.

Her extensive training has also included advanced study in cardiac imaging and women's heart health at Harvard University. Through her clinical work and research, Esther is helping to advance understanding and treatment of cardiovascular disease, with a particular focus on improving patient care and outcomes.



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Professor Fiona Haslam-McKenzie

Research, Economics

Graduated: 1974

Fiona Haslam-McKenzie is an internationally recognised researcher whose work has focused on the economic and social impacts of industry change on regional communities. After spending a year in the United States on exchange, she completed a PhD in Resource Economics at The University of Western Australia, examining the effects of agricultural restructuring on WA communities and international markets.

Her research interests later expanded to the resources sector, where she investigated the impacts of mining development, infrastructure demands and workforce shortages on regional and remote communities.

Over the course of her career, Fiona has worked with leading organisations including the OECD, CSIRO and governments across Europe, North and South America. Her expertise in regional development and economic policy has contributed to a better understanding of how communities can adapt to changing industries and global markets.





Dr Fiona Langdon

Medicine

Graduated: 1999

Fiona Langdon is an experienced obstetrician and gynaecologist who graduated with Honours in Medicine from The University of Western Australia and has dedicated her career to caring for women and families.

Specialising in high-risk pregnancies, Fiona delivered more than 3,500 babies during her time at King Edward Memorial Hospital, supporting women through some of life's most important moments.

She now works in IVF and fertility medicine at Monash IVF in West Leederville, helping individuals and couples achieve their dream of starting or growing a family.



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Professor Fiona Pixley

Medicine, Research

Graduated: 1974

Fiona Pixley is a distinguished physician, researcher and academic whose career has spanned clinical medicine, scientific research and university leadership. She graduated from UWA at the top of her class with First Class Honours and became the first St Hilda's student to be awarded a Rhodes Scholarship.

Her scholarship took her to the University of Oxford, where she completed a D.Phil. and worked in hospitals in Oxford and London. She was admitted as a Member of the Royal College of Physicians before transitioning from clinical practice to medical research and continuing her career in New York.

Fiona later returned to The University of Western Australia, where she built a distinguished career in teaching and research. She retired in 2024 as a Full Professor, leaving a lasting legacy through her contributions to medical science, education and the mentoring of future generations of researchers and clinicians.





Professor Fiona Stanley (AC)

Medicine, Research

Graduated: 1963

Fiona Stanley is one of Australia's most respected epidemiologists and a leading advocate for child and maternal health. As Founding Director of the Telethon Kids Institute and a former Professor of Paediatrics at The University of Western Australia, she has made an extraordinary contribution to medical research and public health.

Named Australian of the Year, Fiona's groundbreaking research has improved the health and wellbeing of countless families. Among her most significant achievements was her work highlighting the importance of folate in pregnancy, which contributed to a reduction in the incidence of certain birth defects.

In recognition of her lasting impact on healthcare and medical research, Western Australia's Fiona Stanley Hospital bears her name, honouring a career dedicated to improving lives through science, advocacy and innovation.



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Fleta Solomon

Medicine, Business

Graduated: 1995

Fleta Solomon is an entrepreneur and business leader best known as the founder, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Little Green Pharma, Australia's first producer and exporter of pharmaceutical-grade medicinal cannabis. Although she stepped down as Managing Director in 2023, she continues to serve as an Executive Director of the company.

Before founding Little Green Pharma, Fleta established and led Onsite Health Solutions, a workplace health and injury prevention business, for more than a decade. Her career has also included involvement in a number of innovative start-ups, spanning sectors such as water treatment technology and digital health.

Through her leadership and commitment to innovation, Fleta has played an important role in advancing healthcare and emerging industries in Australia, building businesses that focus on improving health outcomes and addressing complex community needs.



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Gemma Davis (Beadsworth) (OLY)

Sport

Graduated: 2004

Gemma Davis is an accomplished Australian water polo player who represented her country at three Olympic Games, establishing herself as one of Australia's most successful athletes in the sport.

She won Olympic bronze medals at both the Beijing 2008 and London 2012 Games and had the honour of carrying the Olympic torch in Canberra in the lead-up to the Beijing Olympics.

Gemma also enjoyed success on the world stage, winning a gold medal at the 2006 FINA World Cup, a silver medal at the 2007 World Championships, and another World Cup silver medal in 2010. Her achievements reflect a distinguished international career marked by dedication, skill and sporting excellence.



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Georgie Gardner

Media

Graduated: 1987

Georgie Gardner is a respected Australian journalist, television presenter and newsreader who has become one of the country's most recognisable media personalities.

Throughout her distinguished broadcasting career, Georgie has hosted major television programs, including breakfast television, and has also presented the prestigious Logie Awards. Known for her professionalism and warm on-screen presence, she has earned the trust of audiences across Australia.

In a unique achievement, Georgie is the only news presenter to have anchored late-night news bulletins on all three major Australian commercial television networks, reflecting her versatility and enduring success in the media industry.





Georgina Pearce (OAM)

Philanthropy

Graduated: 1957

Georgina Pearce (King) was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her outstanding volunteer service and commitment to the community.

A dedicated supporter of the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS), Georgina joined the Friends of the Flying Doctors in 1995 and played an active role in fundraising initiatives. She was also a member of the RFDS Flying 1000 group, helping to raise funds for the medical fit-out of a Pilatus aircraft.

Beyond her contributions to the RFDS, Georgina has supported the arts through her involvement with the Friends of the Art Gallery of Western Australia, reflecting her longstanding commitment to enriching the Western Australian community.



Gillian McCloskey

Science, Research

Graduated: 1997

Gillian McCloskey is a geomorphologist and water-quality modeller based in Cairns whose research focuses on understanding and protecting Australia's natural environments, particularly the Great Barrier Reef.

For more than a decade, she has worked with multidisciplinary teams to investigate and model the movement of pollutants into the Great Barrier Reef lagoon. Her research has helped assess how improved land management practices can enhance water quality and reduce environmental impacts on the reef.

Gillian's areas of expertise include landscape erosion, river water quality, sustainable land management and extreme flood events, as well as understanding how these systems may be affected by future climate variability and change. Through her work, she has contributed valuable insights to environmental management and conservation efforts in Australia.





Glynis Traill-Nash

Fashion, Media, Performer

Graduated: 1986

Glynis Traill-Nash is a leading Australian fashion writer, commentator and performer whose career has spanned journalism, broadcasting and the performing arts.

She served as Fashion Editor for The Australian newspaper, earning a reputation as one of the country's most respected voices in fashion. Beyond journalism, Glynis has successfully reinvented herself as a podcaster, comedy cabaret performer and jazz singer.

Her creative pursuits have taken her to the renowned Edinburgh Fringe Festival, where she has performed her cabaret shows, showcasing the versatility, talent and entrepreneurial spirit that have defined her diverse career.



Grace Chow

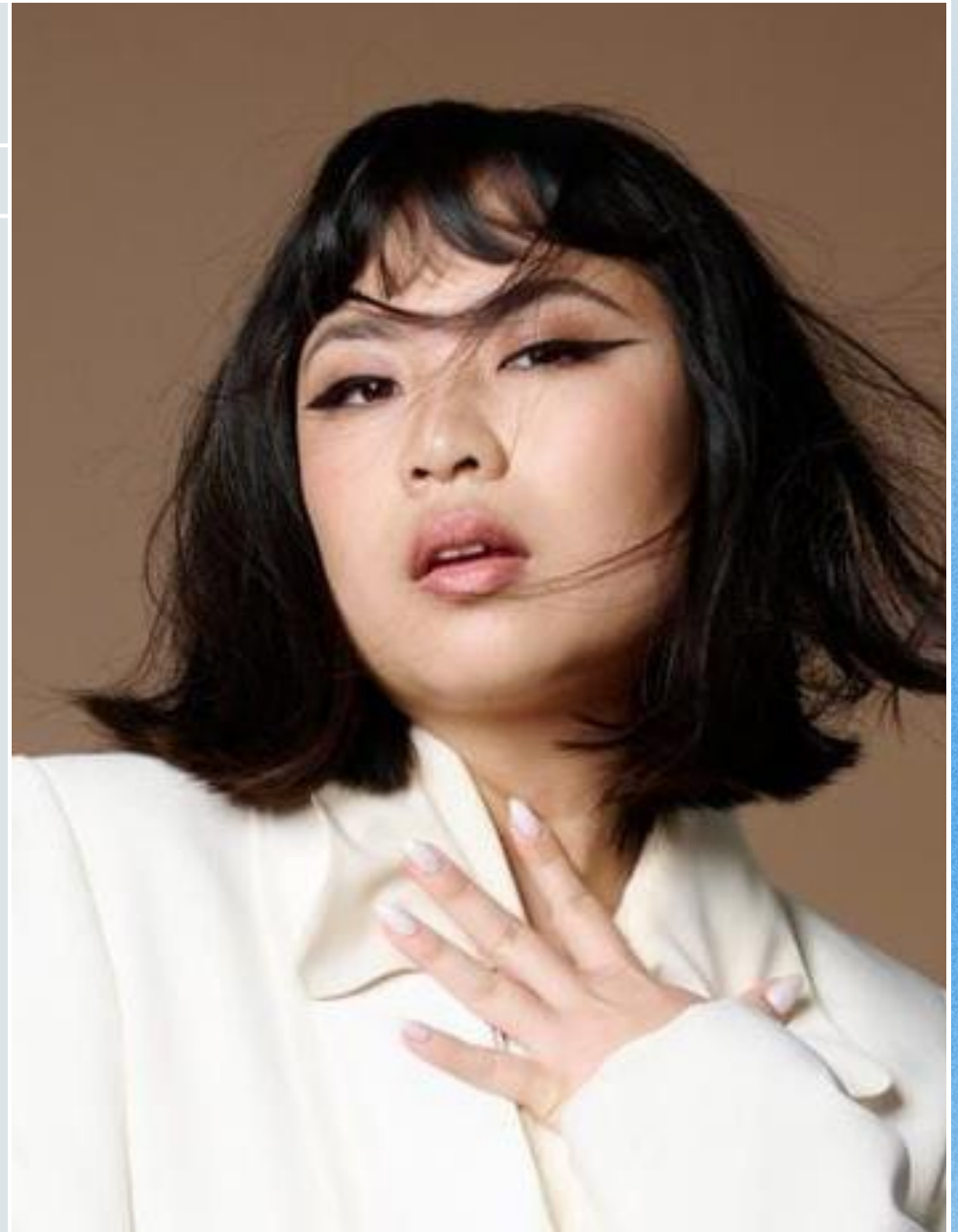
Performing Arts

Graduated: 2017

Grace Chow is an actor, writer and performer who graduated with a Bachelor of Performing Arts from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA). She has built a successful screen and stage career, appearing in productions including Good Cop/Bad Cop, a collaboration between Stan and The CW starring Leighton Meester, as well as the acclaimed Australian series Mystery Road: Origin and The Twelve alongside Sam Neill.

An accomplished playwright, Grace won the prestigious Griffin Award for The Promised Land, a work exploring the complex relationship between colonisation and religion. Her achievements extend to musical theatre and opera, including a leading role in Our Little Inventor.

Through her work across theatre, television and writing, Grace has established herself as a versatile and influential voice in the Australian arts sector, recognised for her creativity, insight and compelling storytelling.





Grace Forrest

Human Rights

Graduated: 2010

Grace Forrest is a human rights advocate and the founding director of Walk Free, an international organisation dedicated to eradicating modern slavery around the world.

Through her leadership, Walk Free played a key role in the successful campaign for Australia's Modern Slavery Act, which was introduced in 2018 with bipartisan support and backing from the business community.

A respected public speaker and advocate for social change, Grace was appointed the United Nations Association of Australia's youngest-ever Goodwill Ambassador for Anti-Slavery, recognising her commitment to raising awareness and driving action against modern slavery globally.

In 2021 Grace was awarded WA Young Australian of the Year.



LT Col Gwenda Caspersonn (CSC)

Defence

Graduated: 1985

Gwenda Caspersonn (Grist) is a current serving Army Officer whose distinguished military career has spanned four decades. Her career has primarily focused on logistics, personnel and governance roles. A highlight of her career was a three-year posting to the Defence section of the Australian Embassy in Washington, DC; a role which earned her a Gold Commendation.

Throughout her career she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and a strong commitment to supporting Defence personnel. Her extensive experience culminated in her appointment as the Army Coordination Officer compiling and responding to tasks from the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Royal Commission and thus support to Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans, Gwenda was recognised in the 2024 Australia Day Awards with a Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC).





Dr Hannah Steel

Veterinary Science

Graduated: 2014

Hannah Steel is a veterinarian whose career has combined animal welfare, conservation and international service. She has worked in an African wildlife sanctuary caring for more than 80 chimpanzees rescued from the bushmeat trade and illegal wildlife trafficking.

During her second posting, Hannah served not only as a veterinarian but also as Sanctuary Manager, overseeing the care and wellbeing of the animals while supporting the sanctuary's broader conservation efforts.

When in Australia, she works in small-animal practice and actively supports fundraising initiatives for wildlife and animal welfare causes. Her career reflects a deep commitment to animal health, conservation and the protection of vulnerable species.



Harriet Marshall

Law, Performing Arts

Graduated: 1991

Harriet Marshall is a senior criminal lawyer with the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia and a passionate advocate for access to justice within the community.

Alongside her legal career, Harriet is the founder and Artistic Director of Freeze Frame Opera, reflecting her deep commitment to the performing arts. Her contributions to both law and culture were recognised with her induction into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame in 2020.

An accomplished performer, Harriet received the Performing Arts WA Award for Outstanding Performer in a Leading Role in 2021 and the award for Outstanding Performer in a Supporting Role in 2025, highlighting her remarkable talent both on and off the stage.





Ingrid Puzey

Philanthropy, Business

Graduated: 1981

Ingrid Puzey (Young) is an experienced non-executive director with more than 25 years of expertise in philanthropy, fundraising, business strategy and community leadership.

She serves as Chair of West Australian Ballet, Co-Deputy Chair of the Chamber of Arts and Culture WA, and Chair of both the UWA Centenary Trust for Women and Equus Bonding Inc. As an ambassador and mentor for Kilfinan Australia, she has also supported the growth and development of numerous not-for-profit organisations.

After beginning her career with Deutsche Bank in Sydney, Ingrid returned to Perth to join her family's surgical and medical business, serving as Managing Director for its final six years under family ownership. Her contributions to business and the community were recognised in 2017 when she was named Citizen of the Year in her local community.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Isabella Watling

Arts

Graduated: 2007

Isabella Watling is an internationally recognised oil painter whose work has earned acclaim for its technical excellence and distinctive portraiture. After training in Florence, she established her career in London, where she continues to work as a professional artist.

Her talent has been recognised through success in prestigious portrait competitions, including second place in the National Portrait Gallery's Portrait Award in 2004, fourth prize in the Portrait Society of America's International Portrait Competition in 2024, and fifth prize in 2002.

Alongside these achievements, Isabella has completed numerous notable portrait commissions, building a reputation as a highly respected contemporary portrait artist on the international stage.





Jacinta Ross-Ehlers

Healthcare, Performing Arts

Graduated: 1990

Jacinta Ross-Ehlers is a physiotherapist whose unique career combines expertise in health, movement and the performing arts. Before earning a Bachelor of Physiotherapy (Honours) from the University of South Australia, she completed tertiary dance training at Adelaide College of the Arts and graduated with Honours from the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Drawing on her own experiences with injury and pain, Jacinta developed a strong interest in understanding human movement, injury prevention and rehabilitation. Her research into lower limb injuries among tertiary dancers helped shape her passion for improving health outcomes for performers and active individuals.

Today, Jacinta combines her knowledge of physiotherapy and movement to support people in achieving optimal physical function, with a particular focus on pain management, injury prevention and evidence-based care.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Janette Foulks-Taylor (OAM)

Agriculture, Environment

Graduated: 1957

Janette Foulks-Taylor (Chomley) is recognised for her significant contribution to the sustainable management of Western Australia's pastoral lands, helping guide the transition from traditional practices to more responsible and environmentally conscious land use.

Born in the Eastern Goldfields, she balanced the demands of running family pastoral properties with a strong commitment to advocacy, representing regional communities in State and Federal forums. She championed issues including distance education, remote communications and the adoption of new technologies and expertise to improve productivity in rural Australia.

A respected leader in the agricultural sector, Janette's contributions have been recognised through her induction into the Royal Agricultural Society of WA's Hall of Fame, honouring her impact on regional development and the pastoral industry.





Dr Jemma Dessauvagie

Sport, Healthcare, Research

Graduated: 2003

Jemma Dessauvagie is a former international waterpolo player who represented Australia at the highest level, earning 58 international caps and competing at World League Super Finals and World Championships. She also captained her national league club team and was twice named in the National All-Star Team.

Following her sporting career, Jemma pursued academic research, completing a PhD that built on her experiences as an elite athlete. Her work focuses on helping sportspeople navigate the physical demands, mental pressures, successes and setbacks that accompany high-performance competition.

Through her research and professional practice, Jemma has contributed to a greater understanding of athlete mental health and wellbeing, supporting the development of healthier and more sustainable sporting careers.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Jennifer Munro

International Relations

Graduated: 1994

Jennifer Munro has built a distinguished career in Australia's diplomatic and public service sector, working across a range of international postings with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

After graduating from The University of Western Australia and the Australian National University, she began her career with a posting to Hong Kong before taking up a role at the Australian Embassy in Moscow. Initially appointed for a three-year term, she remained in Russia for a further two years, reflecting her expertise and commitment to international engagement.

Jennifer later returned to Melbourne before undertaking postings in Singapore and Ottawa, where she continues to support Australia's international interests through her work in diplomacy and government service.



Trailblazers



Jessica Marais

Performing Arts

Graduated: 2002

Jessica Marais is an award-winning Australian actor who graduated from the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA) and has become one of the country's most recognised television performers.

She first gained widespread attention in her breakthrough role as Rachel Rafter in the popular series *Packed to the Rafters*. Her successful television career went on to include leading roles in acclaimed Australian dramas such as *Love Child* and *The Wrong Girl*.

Recognised for her talent and screen presence, Jessica received five Logie Awards from nine nominations across her career, establishing her as one of Australia's most celebrated television actors.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Jo Horgan (AM)

Business

Graduated: 1985

Jo Horgan is the founder and CEO of MECCA, the Australian beauty retailer she grew from a single store into one of the country's most successful independent retail businesses.

Through her vision and leadership, MECCA has expanded to more than 100 stores, transforming the beauty retail landscape in Australia and setting new standards for customer experience and brand engagement.

Widely recognised for her entrepreneurial success and influence, Jo was named Melburnian of the Year in 2025, celebrating her contribution to business, innovation and the Australian retail industry.





Joan London

Author

Graduated: 1965

Joan London (Hankin) is one of Australia's most acclaimed writers, celebrated for her short stories, novels and screenplays. Her first collection of short stories, *Sister Ships and Other Stories*, won The Age Book of the Year, while her second collection, *Letter to Constantine*, received both the Steele Rudd Award and the WA Premier's Book Award for Fiction.

She has published three highly regarded novels, *Gilgamesh* (2001), *The Good Parents* (2008) and *The Golden Age* (2014), each earning critical acclaim for their literary depth and powerful storytelling.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to Australian literature, Joan was awarded both the Patrick White Award and the Nita Kibble Literary Award in 2015, cementing her reputation as one of the nation's leading contemporary authors.



Dr Joan Pope (OAM)

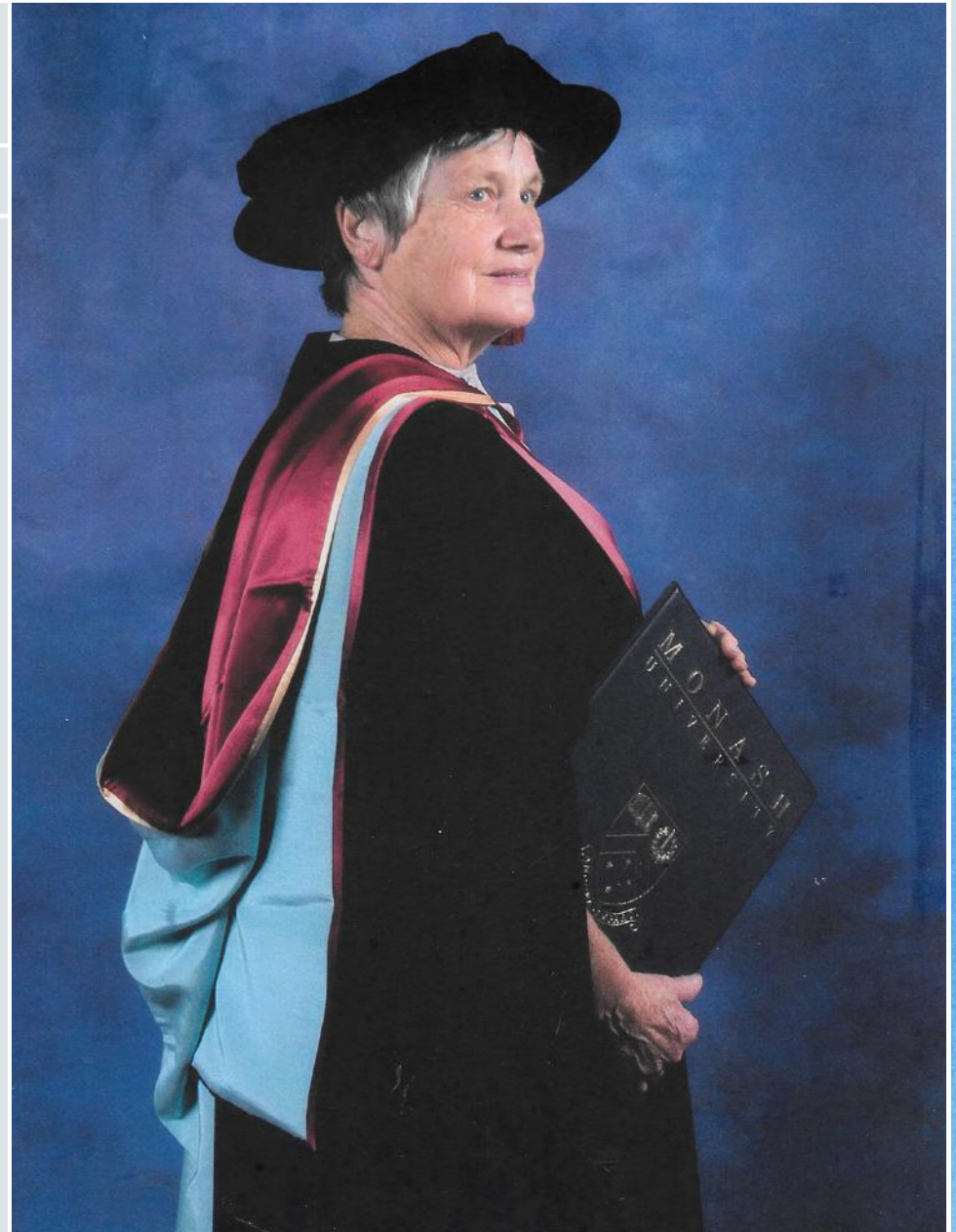
Education, Music

Graduated: 1952

Joan Pope (Gray) was a pioneering music educator who championed the Dalcroze approach, a creative and holistic method of teaching music through movement. She shared her expertise through workshops across Australia and South-East Asia and published several books on music education.

Throughout her career, Joan served on numerous national and international committees in dance, theatre, music and physical education, while also establishing initiatives that enriched opportunities for young people in the arts.

In recognition of her outstanding contributions to creative arts and education, she was awarded an AO and the Centenary Medal, served as Warden of Convocation at The University of Western Australia, and received the University's Chancellor's Medal.





Jordana Ripp

Business, Marketing

Graduated: 2000

Jordana Ripp is a Los Angeles-based entertainment and digital marketing strategist with more than 15 years of experience at the intersection of storytelling, social media, publicity, talent management and entertainment marketing.

Throughout her career, she has worked with some of the world's leading entertainment companies, including Sony Pictures, Disney, Universal Pictures, Netflix and Amazon, and contributed to the marketing of the 2024 Academy Awards. Her expertise spans campaign strategy, audience engagement and digital innovation across film, television and live events.

Combining creativity with strategic insight, Jordana's work draws on a deep understanding of emerging technologies, popular culture and audience behaviour. She has built a reputation for crafting impactful campaigns that connect entertainment brands and talent with audiences around the world.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Joy Anderson (AM)

Healthcare

Graduated: 1969

Joy Anderson (Rowell) has dedicated decades to supporting mothers and babies through her work with the Australian Breastfeeding Association, serving as a volunteer breastfeeding counsellor since 1987.

An International Board Certified Lactation Consultant and qualified dietitian, Joy has combined professional expertise with practical support to help families navigate infant feeding and nutrition. She has also authored several books on breastfeeding and food sensitivity in babies.

In recognition of her outstanding contribution to maternal and child health, Joy was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). She remains an active contributor to the field through conference presentations and the development of educational resources for the Australian Breastfeeding Association.





Professor Judith Cole

Medicine

Graduated: 1973

Judith Cole is a pioneering dermatologist who became the first woman to practise dermatology in Western Australia. Throughout her distinguished career, she has worked as a consultant at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and King Edward Memorial Hospital, as well as in private practice.

Committed to improving access to specialist healthcare, Judith has provided dermatology services to regional communities including Busselton, Northam and Merredin for more than 20 years, helping patients across Western Australia access expert skin care closer to home.

She has also played a leading role in skin cancer management as Head of the WA Melanoma Advisory Service. Her contributions to dermatology, medical education and regional healthcare have had a lasting impact on the profession and the wider community.



Judith Uren

Engineering

Graduated: 1973

Judith Uren was one of the first women in Western Australia to graduate with an Honours degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Western Australia, becoming just the fourth woman in the State to achieve this milestone.

Over her distinguished career, she has worked in the design and management of major civil infrastructure projects across the transport, resources, and oil and gas sectors in Australia, London and Hong Kong.

A Fellow of Engineers Australia member, Judith has also made a significant contribution to the profession through her leadership and volunteer service, including as a WA Branch Executive Committee member and Life Member of Consult Australia, while actively supporting a range of industry organisations.



Trailblazers



Lady Julia Moore

International Relations

Graduated: 1940

Lady Julia Moore (Drake-Brockman) was a trailblazing Australian diplomat who became the youngest woman appointed to Australia's diplomatic service. Her career placed her at the forefront of international efforts to advance human rights and gender equality in the years following World War II.

In 1946, she represented Australia at the United Nations on its social, humanitarian and cultural committees, where she helped advocate for equal voting rights for women in member nations. She also worked alongside prominent Australian campaigner Jessie Street on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.

Although her diplomatic career was cut short after she was directed to relocate to New York to retain her position, Julia's contributions to international diplomacy and women's rights left a lasting legacy, marking her as one of Australia's early female pioneers on the world stage.



Professor Julia Potter

Medicine, Education, Research

Graduated: 1963

Julia Potter (Hickman) is a distinguished medical scientist and academic whose career has spanned research, teaching and leadership in medical education across Australia.

She worked and taught at three Australian universities and medical schools, making significant contributions to the training of future doctors and scientists. Her academic career culminated in her appointment as Foundation Professor of Pathology at the Australian National University.

Following her retirement, Julia was honoured with the title of Emeritus Professor in recognition of her outstanding contributions to pathology, medical research and higher education.





Karen Farley

Law

Graduated: 1976

Karen Farley (Barrymore) is a highly respected criminal defence lawyer and one of Western Australia's leading legal professionals. Appointed Senior Counsel, she has built a distinguished career advocating for vulnerable members of the community, including through her work with Legal Aid WA supporting people with disabilities.

Beyond her legal career, Karen has demonstrated a strong commitment to leadership and public service. She became the first St Hilda's Old Scholar to serve as Chair of the School Council and has also served as President of the Shire of Peppermint Grove.

Through her contributions to law, governance and community service, Karen has earned recognition as a dedicated advocate, leader and role model in Western Australia.



Professor Kathryn Burridge

Education, Languages

Graduated: 1974

Kate Burridge is a renowned linguist, author and educator who serves as Professor of Linguistics at Monash University. She is a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, reflecting her significant contribution to the study of language.

Her research explores language change, linguistic taboos, and the history and structure of the English language. Through her engaging approach to scholarship, she has helped make linguistics accessible to a broad audience.

Awarded the Centenary Medal for her services to education and linguistics, Kate is also a regular radio commentator and prolific author, sharing her expertise through books, articles and public presentations.



Trailblazers 1896-2026



Kate Parker

Arts, Culture

Graduated: 2005

Kate Parker is a cultural strategist and arts project manager with extensive experience delivering major cultural, community and public art initiatives across Western Australia.

Her career has spanned cultural policy, strategic planning, business development and the management of significant public art projects. After spending five years with the not-for-profit organisation FORM, she joined Element Advisory, where she has played a key leadership role in shaping and delivering some of the State's most important cultural projects.

Recognised for her collaborative approach and strategic vision, Kate has contributed to the growth and sustainability of cultural organisations while helping create projects that enrich communities and strengthen Western Australia's cultural landscape.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Katerina Bara

Indigenous Rights, Business

Graduated: 1999

Katarina Bara is a proud Anindilyakwa woman from Groote Eylandt who is dedicated to strengthening Aboriginal businesses, communities and educational opportunities.

A passionate advocate for economic and social development, she serves as Chair of the Arnhem Aboriginal Business Council, having previously held the role of Deputy Chair. Her career has also included positions with the East Arnhem Regional Council and Centrelink, where she worked closely with local communities.

Driven by a commitment to creating better opportunities for her people, Katarina has focused on improving education outcomes and empowering Aboriginal individuals and organisations to achieve long-term success.





Dr Katharine Noonan

Medicine, Public Health

Graduated: 2004

Katharine Noonan is a public health physician dedicated to improving health outcomes at both individual and population levels. After studying medicine at The University of Western Australia, she was awarded a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to complete a Master of Global Health at the University of Oxford.

Her career has spanned clinical medicine, research, policy and advocacy, with a particular focus on rheumatic heart disease and addressing health inequities. She has also worked with the WA Department of Health, contributing to public health strategy and service delivery.

Now based in rural Victoria, Catherine continues to make a significant impact through her work in public health, including communicable diseases, outbreak response and improving health outcomes for regional communities.



Major Kathleen Prendergast

Defence, Science, Medicine

Graduated: 1927

Kathleen Prendergast was a pioneering scientist, doctor and military officer who became the first woman, and at the time of her death the only woman, to attain the rank of Major in the British Army.

Originally trained as a palaeontologist, she was awarded a Hackett Research Studentship at The University of Western Australia before continuing her studies at the University of Cambridge, where she completed a PhD in 1939. She later changed direction to pursue medicine at King's College Hospital in London, qualifying as a doctor in 1944.

Following her medical training, Kathleen was commissioned into the Royal Army Medical Corps and appointed Regimental Medical Officer to the 1st Battalion of the renowned Black Watch regiment. Her remarkable achievements across science, medicine and military service established her as a trailblazer for women in traditionally male-dominated fields.





Kristin Devlin

Defence, Business

Graduated: 1995

Kristin Devlin has built an impressive career spanning military service, consulting and corporate leadership. Beginning with the Royal Australian Navy, she attended the Australian Defence Force Academy in Canberra, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Geography.

She went on to specialise as a ship's navigator, serving on numerous operational deployments, including two tours in the Arabian Gulf. Her time in the Navy developed the leadership, strategic thinking and operational expertise that would shape her future career.

After transitioning from military service, Kristin worked as a management consultant before moving into the resources and construction sectors. She is now General Manager of Supply Chain at Heidelberg Materials, where she leads complex operations and logistics across the business.



Lauren Cramb

Business

Graduated: 2002

Lauren Cramb is an entrepreneur and community leader whose career has been shaped by a commitment to social impact, cultural understanding and innovation. After studying Economics at The University of Western Australia and briefly working in banking, she embarked on a life-changing journey to the Amazon, where she spent a year living with an Indigenous community in Ecuador.

Inspired by this experience, Lauren returned to Australia to study community development and went on to manage remote Indigenous community programs with Curtin University. She later established the Western Australian branch of the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME), helping to create opportunities for young Indigenous Australians.

Lauren subsequently moved to New York, where she founded the highly successful Bike Bar, combining entrepreneurship with her passion for building strong and connected communities.





Leigh Mackay (OAM)

Law, Religion

Graduated: 1970

Leigh Mackay is an experienced lawyer and governance professional whose career has spanned the corporate, legal and not-for-profit sectors. She held senior roles with major companies including ICI and CSR, developing expertise in corporate governance, strategic planning, risk management and ethics.

In addition to serving on numerous boards, Leigh made history as the first woman appointed Registrar of the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne. She is also a Canon Emerita of St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, recognising her longstanding service to the Anglican Church.

In 2019, Leigh was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her significant contribution to the Anglican Church and the wider community.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Lennie McCall Rush (AM)

History

Graduated: 1955

Lennie McCall Rush devoted her career to preserving and improving access to Western Australia's documentary heritage. Beginning as a student librarian at the State Library in 1955, she progressed through a variety of leadership roles before becoming Director of the J.S. Battye Library of West Australian History in 1995.

She also served as Divisional Librarian of the State Bibliographic Centre, working with libraries across Western Australia to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of inter-library lending services and access to information.

As a member of the Historical Records Rescue Group, Lennie helped secure a \$3 million Lotterywest grant that supported the digitisation of more than 81,000 images and 155 films, as well as the microfilming of over 833,000 newspaper pages. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to libraries and historical preservation, she was named a Fellow of the Library Board of Western Australia.





Linda Savage

Law, Politics

Graduated: 1974

Linda Savage is a lawyer, former State politician and passionate advocate for law reform, particularly in the areas of women's rights, children's rights and social justice.

After graduating from The University of Western Australia with an Arts degree, she went on to study Law at the University of Cambridge. Throughout her career, she has been a strong voice for legal and policy reform, contributing to important discussions on issues including surrogacy law, abortion law reform and early childhood development.

As a member of State Parliament, Linda helped develop Labor's Early Years Policy and continued her commitment to improving outcomes for women and families. In recognition of her contributions to the legal profession, including helping to establish the Women's Legal Service WA, she was named Woman Lawyer of the Year in 2010.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Lisa Montgomery

Business

Graduated: 1992

Lisa Montgomery is a strategic advisor and business leader who is the Director of INK Strategy, a boutique consultancy that works with government, industry and community organisations on complex, high-impact projects.

Her expertise spans strategy development, precinct planning, regional development, strategic communications and stakeholder engagement. Through her work, she helps organisations align vision, infrastructure, land use, culture and operational priorities to create practical and achievable pathways for delivery.

Recognised for her collaborative approach and systems thinking, Lisa has contributed to a wide range of initiatives that shape communities, strengthen organisations and support long-term economic and social outcomes across Western Australia and beyond.



Trailblazers



Lizzie Landels

Technology, Law

Graduated: 2002

Lizzie Landels is an operations and strategy professional with experience across the public and private sectors and an international career spanning Australia, the United States, Brazil and the Caribbean.

She is currently Chief of Staff for Microsoft's Trusted Technology Group, where she helps guide the development and responsible use of artificial intelligence, with a focus on privacy, digital safety, accessibility and supporting critical institutions in leveraging emerging technologies.

A former diplomat and admitted barrister and solicitor, Lizzie brings expertise in law, public policy and technology to her work, helping to shape initiatives that balance innovation with social responsibility and public trust.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Lucy Morris

Agriculture

Graduated: 2011

Lucy Morris has built a successful career in agriculture after initially commencing studies in medicine before discovering a passion for the livestock industry, particularly beef cattle production.

She is Head of Operations for T.W. Pearson & Son, where she works closely with producers across Western Australia's South West and Great Southern regions. Her role focuses on supporting all aspects of beef production, from on-farm operations to industry development.

Through her leadership and practical expertise, Lucy contributes to the growth and sustainability of the beef industry, helping producers adapt to challenges and improve outcomes across the supply chain.





Margaret Pitt Morison

Architecture

Graduated: 1916

Margaret Pitt Morison was Western Australia's first woman architect and a pioneering figure in Australian architecture. Working in both Perth and Melbourne, she contributed to the design of a number of notable buildings, including Perth's Lawson Apartments.

Her influence on the profession continues to be recognised through the Margaret Pitt Morison Memorial Prize at The University of Western Australia, awarded to outstanding environmental design students, and the Australian Institute of Architects' WA Margaret Pitt Morison Award for Heritage.

In recognition of her significant contribution to architecture, Margaret was made a Life Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects in 1979, cementing her legacy as a trailblazer for future generations of architects.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Professor Margaret Seares (AO)

Music, Education

Graduated: 1965

Margaret Seares (Edwards) is a distinguished academic, arts leader and administrator whose career has made a significant contribution to music, higher education and the cultural sector in Australia.

Beginning as a specialist in 18th-century keyboard music, she went on to become Head of Music at The University of Western Australia and later served as Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor from 2004 to 2008. Her expertise in leadership and cultural policy also led to her secondment by the Western Australian Government to head the Department of Culture and the Arts.

Margaret has held numerous influential roles in the arts, including serving as Chair of the Perth International Arts Festival from 2012 to 2016. Through her leadership of many state and national arts organisations, she has played a major role in advancing Australia's cultural and creative sectors.





Margot Siemer (Finlayson)

Education, Performing Arts

Graduated: 1956

Margot Siemer is an educator and performer who combined her passion for early childhood education with a love of puppetry to create engaging learning experiences for children.

A Kindergarten and Pre Primary teacher, she taught in both metropolitan and regional schools before spending four years travelling internationally, presenting her Australian puppet program to audiences around the world.

Margot also shared her puppet performances with children in remote Aboriginal communities, using creativity, storytelling and education to connect with young audiences and enrich learning opportunities across diverse settings.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Marilyn Georgeff

Media

Graduated: 1961

Marilyn Georgeff built a diverse and accomplished career across journalism, television, documentary filmmaking and international communications.

After studying economics, she began as a cadet journalist with The Australian before becoming Women's Editor at The Sunday Times. She later moved into television with Channel 7, producing documentaries that drew on her experience as a diver and storyteller.

Her career then took an international turn, including time in Indonesia establishing a bilingual corporate newspaper and later working with SBS as an award-winning journalist and documentary maker. Living in Paris, she combined her expertise in media and communications as a marketing consultant and documentary producer.





Assoc Professor Marion Campbell

Author

Graduated: 1965

Marion Campbell is an acclaimed writer, poet and academic whose lifelong interest in the arts has spanned literature, creative writing and visual art. Although she initially aspired to be a painter, her studies at the universities of Western Australia, New South Wales and Provence in France led her towards language and literary scholarship, with a particular focus on French and German literature, poetics and poetry.

Through her poetry and fiction, Marion has explored innovative approaches to queer and feminist writing, earning recognition for her distinctive and experimental literary voice. Alongside her own creative work, she has taught literature and writing at Australian universities and mentored many emerging writers.

In recent years, Marion has returned to her original passion for painting, developing her visual art practice alongside her continuing work as a poet and author, bringing together two lifelong creative pursuits.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Marjory Rooney

Education

Era: 1910s

Marjory Rooney was a respected educator and University of Western Australia graduate who dedicated much of her career to Girls' High School. A former student of pioneering headmistress Melina Parnell, she later returned to the school as a teacher and ultimately became Headmistress.

Marjory led the school through an important period in its history, serving as Headmistress until Catherine Small succeeded her following the establishment of the new St Hilda's campus.

Her leadership and commitment to education helped shape generations of students and contributed to the continuing growth and success of the school.





Marnie Finlayson

Engineering

Graduated: 1992

Marnie Finlayson is a mining executive and business leader whose career has spanned operations, resources and corporate governance. After studying Minerals Engineering at Curtin University, she progressed through a series of senior leadership roles, including Plant Superintendent, Plant Manager and General Manager of Rio Tinto's Pilbara port operations.

Recognised internationally for her leadership in the resources sector, Marnie was named in the inaugural Global Top 100 Inspirational Women in Mining. She has also contributed to the industry through board leadership, serving as a Non-Executive Director of Northern Star Resources.

As the Managing Director of ASX-listed DevEx Resources, she is leading the development of a uranium exploration company focused on supporting the transition to low-carbon energy. Her career reflects a commitment to innovation, operational excellence and the future of sustainable resource development.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Marnie Shields

Aviation

Graduated: 1991

Marnie Shields is an experienced pilot whose aviation career has taken her across regional Australia and onto international routes with Qantas, where she has worked for more than 26 years.

Before joining Qantas, Marnie flew in South Australia and Far North Queensland, servicing destinations including Alice Springs and Uluru, while also flying over some of Australia's most iconic landscapes, including the Great Barrier Reef and Queensland's rainforests.

She began her Qantas career as a Second Officer and went on to fly long-haul international routes to destinations such as Rome and Hawaii, building a distinguished career marked by skill, professionalism and a passion for aviation.





Megan McCracken

Mining, Energy

Graduated: 1984

Megan McCracken (Egerton-Warburton) has built a distinguished career spanning more than 30 years in the mining, energy and transport sectors across Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. She now focuses on leadership and team coaching, while also contributing through board and advisory roles.

A longstanding advocate for gender equity in traditionally male-dominated industries, Megan actively mentors women through organisations including Women in Mining WA and the National Association of Women in Operations, helping to support the next generation of industry leaders.

Her commitment to advancing women in the workforce has been widely recognised. She won the Industry Advocate category at the 2021 National Women in Industry Awards and was inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame in 2026.



Melanie Pimentel

Film, Broadcasting

Graduated: 1994

Melanie Pimentel (Shepherd) is an accomplished television producer based in Los Angeles, known for creating behind-the-scenes and documentary content for some of the entertainment industry's most acclaimed productions.

As a producer with FX Networks, she has overseen companion content for major series including *Shōgun*, *Alien*, *Love Story*, *Fargo* and *American Horror Story*. Her career has also included production roles with Disney, NFL Network and ABC News.

Melanie's work has earned industry recognition, including an Emmy Award as Supervising Producer for *Shōgun: The Making of Shōgun*. She continues to work on high-profile international productions, with projects taking her to Vancouver, New York and London.





Melina Parnell

Education

Era: 1905 – 1926

Melina Parnell was the influential Headmistress of Girls' High School whose vision and leadership helped shape the traditions, values and educational foundations of the school that would later become St Hilda's.

A strong advocate for expanding educational opportunities for girls, she championed academic excellence at a time when such opportunities were often limited. Under her leadership, Girls' High School was recognised by The University of Western Australia as one of the first schools to offer a university class.

Melina also played a key role in developing school and community connections, serving as President of the inaugural Girls' High School Old Girls' Association and the first Girls' Interschool Sports Association. Her legacy continues through the generations of young women whose education and opportunities were shaped by her pioneering work.



Merome Beard

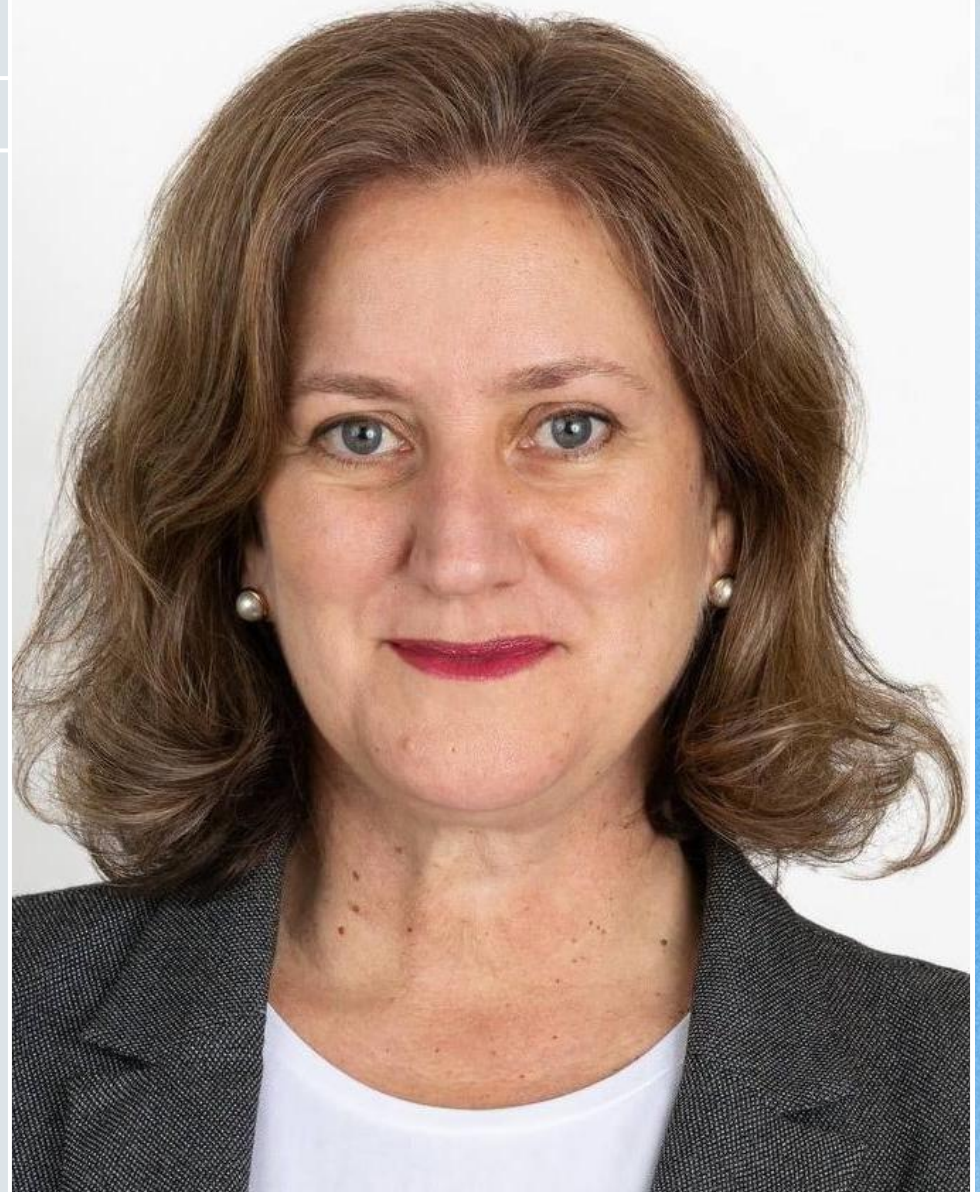
Politics, Business, Sport

Graduated: 1984

Merome Beard (Hall) is a businesswoman, former elite rower and former Member of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly. She represented the seat of North West Central, initially as a member of the National Party before later joining the Liberal Party.

Before entering politics, Merome competed as a rower with the Australian Institute of Sport and represented Australia at the 1994 World Rowing Championships, demonstrating the dedication and discipline that would later shape her professional career.

Together with her husband, she has owned and operated the Port Hotel in Carnarvon for more than 20 years, combining her experience in business, community leadership and public service to make a lasting contribution to regional Western Australia.



Trailblazers 1896-2026



Miranda Edmonds

Film

Graduated: 1994

Miranda Edmonds is an award-winning Australian film producer and director, and co-founder of Cottesloe Films, a production company creating distinctive film and screen projects in Australia and internationally.

Her debut feature film, *Whale Shark Jack*, was produced in Western Australia and released on Stan in 2026. The company also produced *Tango Underpants*, starring Emma Booth, which was filmed in Buenos Aires and went on to win the Audience Award at the Palm Springs International ShortFest and Best Short Film at the St Tropez Cinéma des Antipodes.

With a growing reputation for developing compelling screen stories, Miranda continues to champion independent filmmaking. *Tango Underpants* is currently being adapted into a feature film, further highlighting her success as a creative producer and storyteller.



Professor Miranda Grounds

Research, Medicine

Graduated: 1965

Miranda Grounds is a distinguished medical researcher whose work over more than three decades has advanced understanding of how damaged skeletal muscle repairs and regenerates, particularly in conditions such as Duchenne muscular dystrophy and muscle wasting disorders.

Her pioneering research has helped shape the field of muscle biology, uncovering key factors involved in muscle repair and leading to numerous related studies. She has also investigated innovative treatments, including stem-cell therapies and tissue engineering approaches for both skeletal and cardiac muscle.

Through her contributions to medical science, Miranda has helped drive progress towards new therapies and improved outcomes for people affected by debilitating muscle diseases.





Nel Minchin

Media, Broadcasting

Graduated: 2001

Nel Minchin is an award-winning documentary director, writer and producer whose work has been broadcast on platforms including SBS, Stan, Netflix and ABC iview. Working across London and Sydney, she has built a reputation for creating compelling documentary films that explore significant cultural and social stories.

Her acclaimed feature documentary *Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra* received widespread national and international recognition, winning a Rose d'Or, a Walkley Documentary Award and an AACTA Award for Best Documentary.

The film was screened at more than 35 festivals worldwide, highlighting Nel's ability to bring Australian stories to global audiences. Through her work as an independent filmmaker, she continues to make a significant contribution to documentary storytelling and the screen industry.



Nicole Hannan (OLY)

Sport

Graduated: 1993

Nicole Hannan (Sanderson) enjoyed a distinguished international volleyball career, representing Australia for more than 17 years at the highest level of the sport.

A talented indoor and beach volleyball athlete, she won a bronze medal at the 2003 Beach Volleyball Championships before competing for Australia at the 2004 Athens Olympic Games, where she achieved an outstanding fourth-place finish.

Nicole's longevity, versatility and success on the world stage have cemented her place as one of Australia's accomplished volleyball representatives, inspiring future generations of athletes to pursue excellence in the sport.





Nita Peploe

Law, Business

Graduated: 1988

Nita Peploe is a business leader and lawyer whose career has been shaped by a longstanding involvement in the aged care sector. Drawing on both her legal training and professional experience, she has developed expertise in community infrastructure, development and strategic planning.

She founded Oryx Communities, a consultancy advising on development and infrastructure projects, including innovative integrated models that combine aged care, childcare and retirement living in premium locations across Western Australia.

Nita has also contributed significantly to education and governance through her service as Chair of the St Hilda's Council of Management. Her leadership reflects a commitment to creating connected, inclusive communities that support people at every stage of life.



Olive Pell

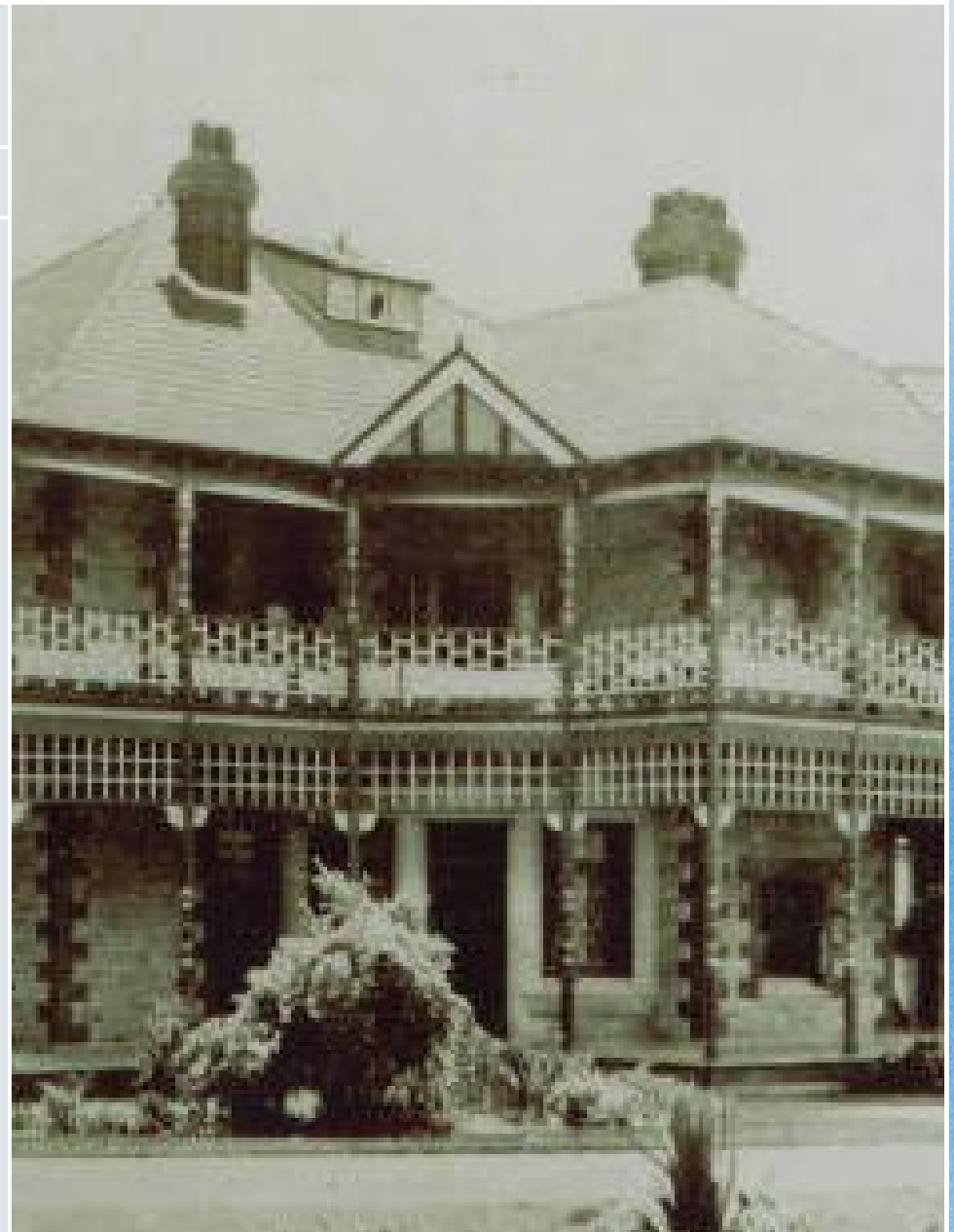
Author, Broadcasting

Graduated: 1918

Olive Pell was a poet, writer and librarian whose literary and cultural contributions helped shape Western Australia's creative community throughout the twentieth century.

Born in Kalgoorlie in 1903 and educated at Girls High School, she later studied at Clyde School in Victoria before returning to Western Australia. In 1942, she joined the library staff at The University of Western Australia, where she remained for the rest of her professional career.

A longstanding member of the Fellowship of Australian Writers and its president from 1969 to 1970, Olive wrote numerous radio features, short stories and plays for radio and television, and published three collections of poetry, earning recognition as an important voice in Australian literature.





Pam Casellas

Media

Graduated: 1970

Pam Casellas is an accomplished journalist whose career with The West Australian and The Sunday Times has spanned feature writing, news reporting and opinion journalism. She has also contributed to public debate as a radio commentator, bringing insight and experience to a wide range of issues.

Throughout her career, Pam has been recognised for her reporting on disability and aged care, earning awards for journalism that highlighted important social and community issues. She also broke new ground as the first woman to write leading articles for The West Australian.

Her long and distinguished career has helped shape journalism in Western Australia, combining a commitment to thoughtful reporting with a dedication to giving a voice to issues that matter to the community.



Paris Ceglinski-Walker

Performing Arts, Education

Graduated: 2012

Paris Ceglinski-Walker is a performer, director and arts educator who studied at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts before founding Amore Music, a successful music and performance school dedicated to nurturing young talent.

An accomplished writer and director, Paris has created numerous productions, including Maisie, which won Best Children's Show at the 2019 Perth Fringe Festival, and Oakley and Olivia, a sell-out Fringe success.

Through her work as a director, educator and adjudicator, Paris continues to inspire the next generation of performers. She is currently directing Matilda Jr and remains an active contributor to Perth's vibrant performing arts community.



Trailblazers



Pauline Wright (McClemens)

Philanthropy

Graduated: 1921

Pauline Wright (McClemens) was a dedicated supporter of St Hilda's whose commitment to the school helped strengthen its community and traditions over many years.

An enthusiastic volunteer and fundraiser, she played an active role in organising school fairs and events, contributing valuable time and energy to initiatives that benefited students and the wider school community.

As an early member of the Parents and Friends Association, Pauline helped establish a culture of involvement and support that continues to play an important role in the life of the school today.



Dr Pei-Yin Lew

Medicine, Explorer

Graduated: 2003

Pei-Yin Lew was Dux of her year and went on to study Medicine at the University of Melbourne on a full scholarship. An adventurer at heart, she has explored some of the world's most remote regions, camping on all seven continents, including Antarctica, cycling through Kurdistan, Pakistan and Iraq, and living in Yemen for four months.

Her travels have also included climbing high-altitude peaks in Bhutan and Bolivia and undertaking a solo journey through Africa from Cape Town to Cairo. Her curiosity, resilience and willingness to embrace new challenges have defined both her professional and personal life.

In recent years, Pei-Yin has faced significant health challenges, including bowel and brain cancer, yet has maintained her optimism and adventurous spirit. She continues to seek new experiences and is currently exploring the Galápagos Islands.





Phoebe Hammond (Ryan)

Women's Rights

Graduated: 2006

Phoebe Hammond is a leader in global health and advocacy, serving as Chief of the International Planned Parenthood Federation's Australia and New Zealand Office, part of the world's largest federation dedicated to sexual and reproductive health and rights, with a presence in 149 countries.

A passionate champion for sexual and reproductive health, rights and gender equality, Phoebe has worked to advance access to essential health services and empower communities across the Asia-Pacific region.

Recognised for her strategic leadership and fundraising expertise, she has been instrumental in securing support for programs that improve health outcomes and promote gender justice, helping to create lasting change for women, girls and families throughout the region.



Pippin Drysdale

Art

Graduated: 1961

Pippin Drysdale is one of Australia's most celebrated ceramic artists, renowned for her innovative work and enduring contribution to contemporary craft. Recognised as a State Living Treasure and a Master of Australian Craft, her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally.

Throughout her distinguished career, Pippin has received numerous honours, including an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Curtin University. Her distinctive ceramics, often inspired by the colours and landscapes of Australia, have earned widespread acclaim within the art world.

More recently, she was shortlisted as a finalist in the prestigious Wynne Prize at the Art Gallery of New South Wales and presented a major solo exhibition at the Art Gallery of Western Australia, further cementing her legacy as one of the nation's leading artists.





Professor Porscha Fermanis

Education, Research, Author

Graduated: 1992

Porscha Fermanis is a distinguished literary scholar and Professor of Nineteenth-Century Literature at University College Dublin. Through her teaching and research, she helps prepare students for careers across a wide range of fields, including government, journalism, publishing and the creative industries.

An internationally recognised researcher, Porscha was awarded a prestigious European Research Council grant in 2016 to investigate the literary cultures of nineteenth-century Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. Her scholarship has contributed significantly to understanding literature's role in shaping cultural and historical identities.

The author or co-author of seven books, Porscha was elected to the Royal Irish Academy in 2024 in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the arts and humanities. Her work continues to influence literary scholarship both in Ireland and internationally.



Professor Ranjeny Thomas (AM)

Medicine, Research

Graduated: 1978

Ranjeny Thomas is a distinguished rheumatologist, researcher and academic whose career has been dedicated to advancing the understanding and treatment of autoimmune and inflammatory diseases.

A graduate of The University of Western Australia, she trained in Perth before undertaking a research fellowship with renowned immunologist Professor Peter Lipsky at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in 1990. She is now Professor of Rheumatology at The University of Queensland's Frazer Institute and Translational Research Institute, and a Consultant Rheumatologist at Princess Alexandra Hospital.

Recognised for her significant contributions to medical research and patient care, Ranjeny is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2020.





Robyn Connolly

Film

Graduated: 1967

Robyn Connolly was an acclaimed independent filmmaker whose collaborative work with filmmaker Bob Connolly earned national and international recognition for its powerful storytelling and documentary excellence.

Together, they produced a series of award-winning films that received honours including an Academy Award nomination, the Grand Prix at France's Festival Cinéma du Réel, an Australian Film Institute (AFI) Award for Best Documentary, and the prestigious Byron Kennedy Award.

Their partnership went on to create further highly successful films, two of which also received AFI Awards. Through her work as a filmmaker, Robyn helped bring Australian stories to audiences around the world and made a lasting contribution to the nation's documentary and film industry.



Professor Rosamond McKitterick

History, Research

Graduated: 1966

Rosamond McKitterick (Pierce) is one of the world's foremost historians of the early Middle Ages and Professor Emerita of Medieval History at the University of Cambridge. Her influential scholarship has transformed understanding of the Carolingian world, particularly in the areas of literacy, manuscript culture and the transmission of knowledge.

A former Chair of Medieval History at Cambridge, Rosamond has authored and edited numerous landmark works that have reshaped the study of medieval Europe and challenged long-held assumptions about the intellectual life of the early Middle Ages.

Her outstanding contributions to historical scholarship have been recognised internationally, including with the prestigious Heineken Prize, awarded for research that has fundamentally changed how the Carolingian period is understood.



Trailblazers 1896-2026



Rowena Walsh

Art, Business

Graduated: 1985

Rowena Walsh (Keall) has built a creative career spanning art, design and small business. After studying fashion design at Bentley Technical School and fine art at the Claremont School of Art, she developed her artistic practice while also running her own floristry business.

A passionate advocate for sustainable fashion and creative reuse, Rowena founded the well-known Magpie Conscious Collective, a recycling and resale boutique that operated from 2019 to 2026 and encouraged more environmentally conscious consumption.

Through her work as an artist, entrepreneur and community innovator, Rowena has combined creativity with sustainability, inspiring others to embrace both artistic expression and responsible living.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Sabina Shugg (OA)

Mining, Engineering

Graduated: 1984

Sabina Shugg is a highly respected mining engineer with more than 35 years of experience in senior operational and consulting roles across the resources sector, including with Normandy, Newcrest and KPMG.

A passionate advocate for diversity and inclusion, she is the founder and Chair of Women in Mining and Resources WA, an organisation dedicated to supporting and advancing women in the industry. Her leadership was recognised with the inaugural Women in Resources Champion award from the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia.

In recognition of her outstanding service to the mining industry and her commitment to creating opportunities for others, Sabina was awarded the Order of Australia, cementing her legacy as a leader and trailblazer in the resources sector.



Trailblazers



Professor Sarah Love

Healthcare, Research

Graduated: 1979

Sarah Love is a paediatric physiotherapist dedicated to helping babies, children and teenagers achieve their best possible outcomes following injury, illness or developmental challenges.

Throughout her career, she has worked across hospitals, community programs and universities in Perth and overseas, combining clinical expertise with a commitment to improving care for young people and their families.

In addition to treating children directly, Sarah is actively involved in research, teaching, leadership and the development of innovative health services, including the use of therapy dogs. Her work reflects a passion for advancing paediatric care and enhancing the wellbeing of children through evidence-based and compassionate practice.



Professor Sarah Murray

Law, Research

Graduated: 1995

Sarah Murray (Ford) is a constitutional law scholar, educator and legal reform advocate. After graduating from The University of Western Australia with Honours in Law and Anthropology, she practised as a corporate, tax and mental health lawyer before pursuing academia.

Her doctorate was awarded the prestigious Mollie Holman Doctoral Medal for Law at Monash University, recognising the excellence of her research. She has since become a Professor of Law at The University of Western Australia and is widely recognised for her expertise in constitutional and public law.

Sarah has written extensively on constitutional issues, serves as Co-Director of the Robert French Centre for Public Law, and has contributed to legal reform as a former Commissioner of the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia. Through her teaching, research and public engagement, she continues to shape understanding of Australia's legal and constitutional framework.





Shameem Taheri-Lee

Music

Graduated: 2005

Shameem Taheri-Lee is a singer, songwriter and performer whose passion for music began at an early age. After graduation, she spent a year volunteering in Alice Springs with the Junior Youth Spiritual Empowerment Program and other community-building initiatives of the Bahá'í Training Institute.

An independent recording artist, Shameem has written, produced and released four studio albums of original neo-soul music. Her work has taken her to audiences across Australia and internationally, with performances in the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada.

Over the course of her career, she has shared the stage with major international artists including Ronan Keating, Michael Bolton, George Benson and Belinda Carlisle. Through her music and community involvement, Shameem has built a career that combines creativity, connection and a commitment to positive social impact.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Sheila McClemons (CMG, OBE)

Law, Navy

Graduated: 1927

Sheila McClemons was a pioneering Australian servicewoman, lawyer, barrister and company director who broke new ground for women in the legal profession.

A former Girls' High School student, she served in the Women's Royal Australian Navy before pursuing a distinguished legal career. She established Western Australia's first all-female law firm and became the first woman barrister to appear before the Supreme Court of Western Australia.

Her outstanding contributions to law and public service were recognised with appointment as an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1951 and a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George (CMG) in 1977. She also received the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee Medal, cementing her legacy as a trailblazer for women in the legal profession.





Shirley Offer

Law, Philanthropy

Graduated: 1944

Shirley Offer was among the first women in Western Australia to earn a law degree and was a passionate advocate for both women's advancement and the St Hilda's community.

A dedicated supporter of the School, she represented the Old Scholars Association on the Council of Management and played a significant role in the planning and development of the School Chapel. Her commitment to St Hilda's reflected a lifelong belief in education, service and community.

Recognising the importance of philanthropy, Shirley left a generous bequest to the School. Her legacy continues through the Offer Society, named in her honour to recognise and celebrate those who make lasting contributions to St Hilda's through charitable giving.



Siobhan Drake-Brockman

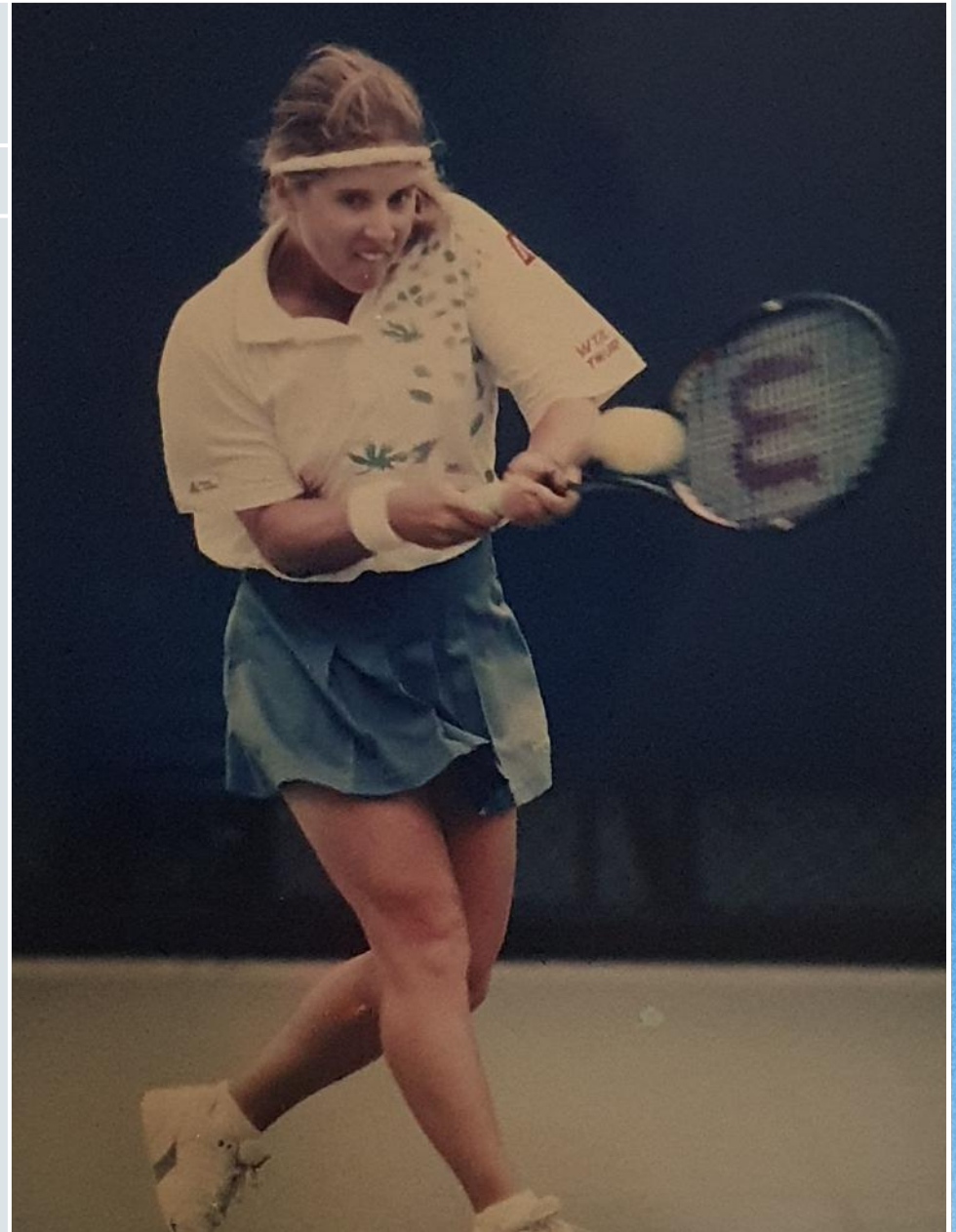
Sport, Law

Graduated: 1995

Siobhan Drake-Brockman is a former professional tennis player who achieved national prominence when she won the girls' singles title at the 1985 Australian Open.

She competed internationally throughout her tennis career, playing in the qualifying rounds of Wimbledon over four years and contesting qualifying events at the US Open and the French Championships in 1995, 1997 and 1998.

Following her retirement from professional sport, Siobhan qualified as a lawyer and built a successful career in the corporate sector. She now works as a Contracts Advisor at Chevron, bringing the same dedication and discipline that characterised her achievements on the tennis court.





Sophia Curnow

Emergency Services, Sport

Graduated: 1994

Sophia Curnow is an experienced emergency services professional whose career has been dedicated to firefighting, training and leadership within the sector.

She has held leadership roles with the Institution of Fire Engineers and has actively contributed to the development of professional standards and training in fire and emergency management. Her achievements also extend to sport, having competed at the 2004 World Firefighters Games in Sheffield, England, where she won medals in all five of her track and field events.

Drawing on her extensive operational experience, Sophia now works as an instructor for the oil and gas industry, helping to train personnel in safety, emergency response and firefighting practices. Her career reflects a strong commitment to excellence, service and the development of others in high-risk industries.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Stephanie Adams

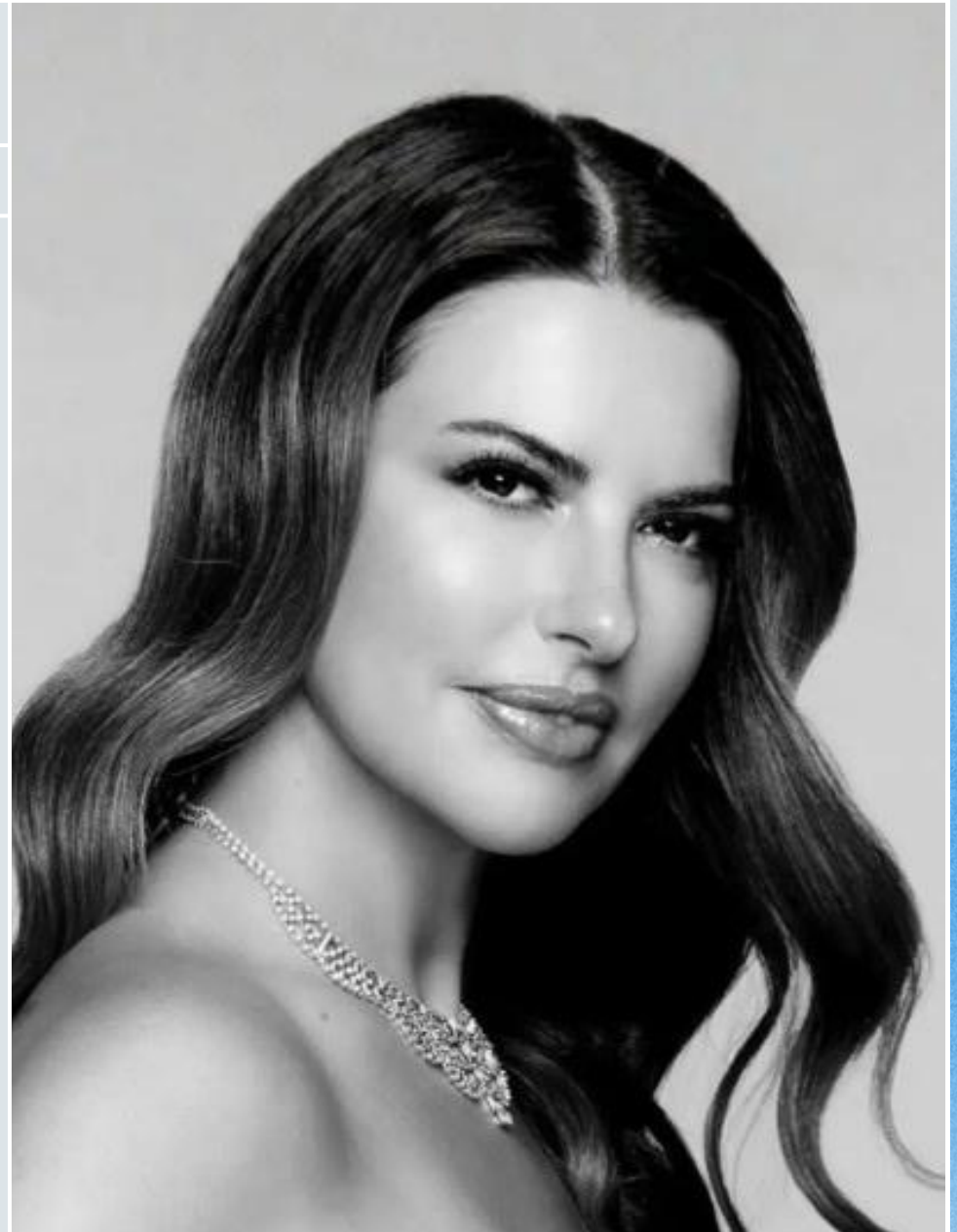
Fashion, Media, Author

Graduated: 1994

Stephanie Adams is a former model, author and creative professional whose career has spanned fashion, publishing and entrepreneurship.

Beginning her modelling career at the age of 12, she worked with leading publications including British Vogue, Vogue Australia, Harper's Bazaar, Marie Claire and GQ. She later transitioned into art direction and graphic design, building a successful career within the magazine publishing industry.

In addition to her work in media, Stephanie is the author of more than 30 books focused on women in business, wellness and motherhood, sharing practical insights and inspiration drawn from her diverse professional and personal experiences.



Trailblazers 1896-2026



Professor Susan Prescott

Medicine, Research

Graduated: 1981

Susan Prescott is an internationally recognised immunologist, paediatrician and researcher whose work has transformed understanding of how early-life environmental influences shape health and wellbeing throughout life.

A former Professor of Paediatrics in the School of Medicine at UWA, Susan was a founding director of The Kids Research Institute Australia at Joondalup Health Campus. Her research has focused on the complex interactions between environment, immunity and health, helping to advance knowledge of allergy, chronic disease and disease prevention.

Now based in New York, Susan was also a founding director of the ORIGINS Project at the Telethon Kids Institute, one of Australia's largest long-term studies of child health and development. Through her leadership, research and advocacy, she has made a significant international contribution to child health, preventive medicine and the understanding of lifelong wellbeing.



Susanna Bessell-Brown

Languages

Graduated: 1965

Susanna Bessell-Brown discovered a lifelong passion for languages while participating in a language study tour with former schoolmates, accompanied by a French teacher. That early experience sparked an enduring interest in languages and cultures beyond English.

Since then, her professional and voluntary work has been devoted to promoting multilingual communication and cross-cultural understanding. Her career has spanned non-English language services, multilingual celebrancy, travel and tourism, helping people connect across linguistic and cultural boundaries.

Through her commitment to languages and community engagement, Susanna has played an important role in fostering inclusivity, cultural awareness and international connections.





Su-Yin Lew

International Relations

Graduated: 2014

Su-Yin Lew is a diplomat with Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade who is currently posted to the Australian Mission to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

As a Second Secretary, she contributes to strengthening Australia's engagement and cooperation with Southeast Asia, advocating for Australian policy positions and supporting regional partnerships on a range of strategic, economic and social issues.

Her role also includes working closely with visiting Australian ministers and officials, helping to advance Australia's interests and relationships within one of the world's most dynamic and important regions.



Sybil Greenway

Law

Graduated: 1932

Sybil Greenway was among the pioneering women who entered the legal profession in Western Australia at a time when few women pursued careers in law.

After attending Girls' High School, she transferred to the newly established St Hilda's and later enrolled at The University of Western Australia, studying first Arts and then Law. At the time, women were still significantly underrepresented in the profession, with far fewer female than male law graduates.

One of the first women admitted to legal practice in Western Australia, Sybil built her career during the World War II era, helping pave the way for future generations of women in the law through her determination, professionalism and commitment to public service.





Thea Kurniawan

Business

Graduated: 2014

Thea Kurniawan is a business leader and advocate whose expertise spans international relations, management, business transformation and sustainable manufacturing. Her work focuses on optimising processes, driving innovation and delivering large-scale projects with lasting economic and social impact.

Thea volunteers with organisations including Engineers Without Borders and Millennium Kids. As the founder of TEDxUWA, one of Australia's leading youth-run TEDx organisations, she has helped facilitate global conversations on innovation and leadership, reaching more than 1.3 million viewers.

Her achievements have been recognised through numerous honours, including Forbes Under 30 Scholar, Asialink Business leader, and two-time Australian Community Citizen of the Year Award recipient. She is among the youngest inductees into the WA Women's Hall of Fame, reflecting her outstanding contribution to leadership, education and community development.



Tommy Payne

Technology

Graduated: 2004

Tommy Payne is a designer and creative strategist who describes herself as a digital alchemist, transforming complex ideas into engaging and meaningful experiences.

Her career has taken her around the world, including a decade in the United States and a period in Silicon Valley designing for Apple. She later moved to Melbourne, where she continued to build her expertise in graphic design and innovation.

With degrees from RMIT University, The University of Notre Dame Australia and New York University, Tommy combines creativity with a strong academic foundation. Today, she works at the forefront of the emerging field of artificial intelligence, exploring new ways technology and design can enhance human experiences.



Trailblazers 1896-2026



Vanya Cullen (OAM)

Viticulture, Business

Graduated: 1976

Vanya Cullen is one of Australia's most respected winemakers and a driving force behind the success of Cullen Wines. Since taking over the family winery, she has transformed it into one of the nation's leading boutique wine producers and a model for environmentally sustainable viticulture.

A pioneer of biodynamic grape growing in Australia, Vanya has championed practices that promote soil health, biodiversity and a deep connection to the land. Her innovative approach has earned her widespread recognition as both an award-winning winemaker and a highly regarded wine show judge.

Through her leadership, vision and commitment to sustainability, Vanya has helped establish Cullen Wines as an internationally acclaimed brand while inspiring a more environmentally conscious approach to winemaking across the industry.



Trailblazers 1896-2026

Veronica Binns (Carr)

Aviation

Graduated: 1989

Veronica Binns is an experienced aviation professional who has built a successful career as a commercial pilot, including more than 15 years with Virgin Australia and a decade as a Boeing 737 captain.

Inspired by a childhood fascination with space travel, Veronica began flying lessons while completing a Bachelor of Science at The University of Western Australia. After obtaining her commercial pilot's licence, she gained valuable experience as a flying instructor and in the mining sector before joining the airline industry.

Her achievements and leadership in aviation reflect a lifelong passion for flight and a commitment to excellence in a field that continues to inspire future generations of pilots.





Yasmin Kassim

Performing Arts

Graduated: 2007

Yasmin Kassim is an Australian actor, comedian and writer who has built a successful international career across film, television and live performance.

Her screen credits include *Anaconda* alongside Jack Black and Paul Rudd, HBO Max's *The Sex Lives of College Girls*, *Spa Weekend* with Isla Fisher and Michelle Buteau, and *Fing!* opposite Taika Waititi, which premiered at Sundance in 2026. She has also appeared in the long-running Australian television series *Neighbours*.

A talented performer on stage as well as screen, Yasmin recently completed a sold-out Australian tour with Brown Women Comedy, appearing at major events including the Adelaide Fringe and Melbourne International Comedy Festival. In 2025, she was selected as one of the eight official comedians for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade, recognising her growing influence in Australian comedy.



Zoe Thomson (OLY)

Sport

Graduated: 2015

Zoe Thomson is an accomplished sailor and Olympian who combines her international sporting career with part-time Commerce studies at The University of Western Australia.

Having progressed through the junior sailing ranks, Zoe now competes in the Laser Radial class, the only single-handed women's Olympic sailing event. Zoe achieved her goal of representing Australia at the Paris 2024 Olympics, and regularly competes internationally, including campaigns in Europe against the world's best sailors.

A scholarship holder with the Western Australian Institute of Sport, Zoe was recently named WA Female Sailor of the Year, recognising her talent, dedication and achievements on the water. Her current goal is to represent Australia and medal at the LA Games in 2028. She was also a member of the inaugural female Australian Americas Cup squad the same year (2026).







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