

**COTA**   
NORTHERN TERRITORY  
*for senior Territorians*

**Inspiring Women**  
Stories, successes and  
achievements.



# About IWD

COTA NT is the peak body representing the interests and rights of people aged 50+ in the Northern Territory. It supports equality in Australia and whilst there have been gains in women's rights in recent years due to persistent advocacy from women, there is still gender imbalance in this country and in our Territory.

**Women and girls experience the highest rates of domestic, family and sexual violence, are more likely to earn less in their lifetime, bear the disproportionate responsibility for unpaid care and unpaid work in families and are under-represented in decision-making structures.**

[NT Gender Equality Action Plan 2022-2025](#)

At the current rate of progress, it will take until 2158, (five generations from now), to reach full gender parity, according to data from the *World Economic Forum*. Focusing on the need to **Accelerate Action** emphasises the importance of taking swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality. It calls for increased momentum and urgency in addressing the systemic barriers and biases that women face, both in personal and professional spheres.

**As individuals, we can all take steps in our daily lives to positively impact women's advancement. We can call out stereotypes, challenge discrimination, question bias, celebrate women's success, and so much more. Additionally, sharing our knowledge and encouragement with others is key.**

Strategies, resources, and activity that accelerates action in many areas include:

- forging women's economic empowerment
- recruiting, retaining and developing diverse talent
- supporting women & girls into leadership, decision-making, business and STEM
- designing and building infrastructure meeting the needs of women and girls
- helping women and girls make informed decisions about their health
- providing women and girls with access to quality education and training
- elevating women and girl's participation and achievement in sport
- promoting creative and artistic talent of women and girls.

*COTA NT also acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Elders past, present and emerging, of these lands where we work and live; teach and learn; talk and listen.*

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To Accelerate Action for women's equality a collective effort across governments, civil society, private sector, and communities is required. The faster and more comprehensive the approach, the sooner progress will be made toward gender equality.

IWD belongs to all of us who care about women's equality. We celebrate women's achievements and successes and will continue to raise awareness about discrimination.



# Women of the Northern Territory

## Natasha Fyles

**Natasha Fyles was born in Darwin in 1978 at the old Darwin hospital and grew up in the Northern suburbs.**

She completed her teaching degree at the University of Canberra and then returned to Darwin, teaching at St Mary's Primary School involved in School Sports NT. She later worked as the Executive Director of Royal Life Saving Society NT.

When COVID hit Australia in 2020, she stepped up as the NT's Health Minister, responding quickly to Indigenous community worries by closing borders and limiting deaths. She opened Australia's national pandemic quarantine centre in Howard Springs.

She served as the 12th Chief Minister of the Northern Territory, and was the first female NT-born Chief Minister.

## Dr Ella Stack CBE

**Dr Ella Stack CBE was an Australian medical doctor and the first female Lord Mayor of an Australian capital city.**

She was the Mayor of the City of Darwin from 1975 to 1979, and Lord Mayor from 1979 to 1980. She became both the first Assistant Secretary of the Division of Aboriginal Health at the Department of Health of the Northern Territory and the Chief Medical Officer of the Northern Territory.

She is best known for her work following Cyclone Tracy. Instead of evacuating, she ran an emergency clinic at Darwin High School, the main shelter and evacuation centre after the cyclone. She was responsible for the health care of 11,000

people who passed through the centre.

She also wrote about and commented publicly on public health and community issues such as abortion and women's rights and was instrumental in the establishment of Menzies School of Health.

## Jeannie Gunn OBE

**Jeannie Gunn OBE was the Owner of Elsey Station. In Palmerston and Darwin, Jeannie had been told that as a woman she would be 'out of place' on a station such as Elsey, where news of the boss's marriage had already caused alarm.**

Nevertheless, she insisted on accompanying her husband. Her pluck in tackling the journey, her sense of humour and her fine horsemanship won her the admiration and friendship of the stockmen. Unfortunately, outback life lasted only thirteen months for the Gunns. After her husband died of malarial dysentery she returned to Melbourne where she wrote *We of the Never Never*.

During World War I and after, she was active in welfare work for soldiers, ex-servicemen and their families. She was patron of many fund-raising activities associated with ex-servicemen. In 1939 she was appointed O.B.E.

## Dr Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr-Baumann OA

**Dr Miriam- Rose Ungunmerr – Baumann OA speaks 5 languages along with English and encouraged other Daly River women to become teachers.**

She initiated a successful remote area teaching education program and later went on to gain her Masters of Education Degree.

The focus of work for her master's degree was the integration of traditional and western education for Aboriginal children and adults. She has also been acclaimed for her series of paintings and her illustrations.

## Terry Underwood OAM

**Terry Underwood OAM – Terry Underwood embraced the rural life and has become one of its most passionate ambassadors. In her multiple roles of wife, mother, cattle woman, nurse, bookkeeper, cook, counsellor and gardener.**

She saw Riveren grow from its humble beginnings to a major cattle property extending over three thousand square kilometres, supporting twenty thousand head of Brahmin cattle. As a noted author she celebrated her way of life through her award-winning photography and her best-selling autobiography, "The Middle of Nowhere." In 2006, as ambassador for "The Year of the Outback" Terry both initiated and coordinated a major fund-raising

venture to provide the bronze statue of the "Stockman's Tribute", which was cast by outback sculptor Archie Clair, and is a lasting tribute to those working tirelessly in the pastoral industry.

## Sally Thomas AC

**Sally Thomas AC was the first female Administrator of the NT and the first female appointed as a Judge of the Court.**

She has a strong interest in the tertiary education of Territorians and was Deputy Chairman of the Northern Territory College of Queensland University and then a Member of the (then) Northern Territory University Council from 1989 to 2003.

In 2003, Sally was appointed to the Council of Charles Darwin University and elected Deputy Chancellor, she was appointed Chancellor of the University on 1 January 2010 and served two terms.

Her career has not been limited to the judicial system, she was Chair of the Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission from 1990 to 1996, Chair of the Northern Territory Winston Churchill Fellowship Committee from 1992 to 2004 and in 2004 she was appointed Deputy National Chair Fellowship, of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust.

In June 2000 she was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for her service to the community.

## Katrina Fong Lim

**Katrina Fong Lim became the first Female Chinese Australian Mayor in Australia when she became mayor of Darwin in 2012.**

She is also a former student of Darwin High School and the current chair of the Xmas in Darwin Assoc.

## Dawn Lawrie

**Dawn Lawrie was also the first Regional Director for the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission and the first NT Anti-Discrimination Commissioner.**

## Liz Andrews

**Liz Andrews was appointed Administrator of the Northern Territory Arts Council in 1980 and served as general secretary of the Country Liberal Party until 1983.**

## Jessica Mauboy

**Jessica Mauboy rose to fame in 2006 on the fourth season of Australian Idol, where she was runner-up and subsequently signed a recording contract with Sony Music Australia.**

After releasing a live album of her Idol performances and briefly being a member of the girl group Young Divas in 2007. She is one of Australia's most successful female artists and a TV and movie actresses.

Throughout her career, Mauboy has supported various charities and causes in Australia including the Sony Foundation, Channel Seven

Perth Telethon, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Carols for a Cause, Kids Helpline, The Smith Family, the Indigenous Literacy Project (ILP), Aboriginal Yipirinya and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation.

## Miranda Tapsell

**Darwin-born actress Miranda Tapsell starred in The Sapphires with Jessica Mauboy and Sharri Sebbens.**

Her performance in the TV Series Love Child was extremely well received, garnering two Logies in May 2015, Best New Talent and the Graham Kennedy Award For Most Outstanding Newcomer.

On reception of the first she urged the relevant people in the audience to "Put more beautiful people of colour on TV and connect viewers in ways which transcend race and unite us," adding, "That's the real team Australia."

## “Tracy”

**Cyclone Tracy killed 66 people and caused \$837 million in damage (roughly \$8.5 billion in 2025).**

It destroyed more than 70 percent of Darwin's buildings, including 80 percent of houses. It left more than 25,000 out of the 47,000 inhabitants of the city homeless.

It required the evacuation of over 30,000 people, many of whom never returned. The storm is the second-smallest tropical cyclone on record (in terms of gale-force wind diameter), behind the North Atlantic's tropical storm *Marco* in 2008.

## Joan of Arc

**Joan of Arc was honoured as a defender of the French nation for her role in the siege of Orléans and her insistence on the coronation of Charles VII of France during the Hundred Years' War.**

Claiming to be acting under divine guidance, Joan became a military leader who transcended gender roles and gained recognition as a saviour of France. She was burned at the stake aged 19 on accusations of heresy which were overturned. She was an obedient daughter of the Roman Catholic Church, an early feminist and a symbol of freedom and independence. She is popularly revered as a martyr.

## Vivian Bullwinkel

**In 1941, Vivian Bullwinkel volunteered as a nurse with the RAAF but was rejected for having flat feet. She was, however, able to join the**

### **Australian Army Nursing Service.**

After Japanese troops invaded Singapore, she and 65 other nurses boarded the SS *Vyner Brooke* to escape the island. The ship was sunk by the Japanese, and they made it ashore but were found by the Japanese who killed the men, then motioned the nurses to wade into the sea. They then machine-gunned the nurses from behind. She was struck by a bullet and pretended to be dead until the Japanese left. She hid with a wounded British private for 12 days before deciding once again to surrender. They were taken into captivity, but the private died soon after.

She was reunited with survivors of *Vyner Brooke*. She told them of the massacre, but none spoke of it again until after the war lest it put her as witness to the massacre, in danger.

She spent three and half years in captivity; she was one of just 24 of the 65 nurses who had been on the *Vyner Brooke* to survive the war.

In later life she devoted herself to the nursing profession and to honouring those killed on Banka Island, raising funds for a nurses' memorial and serving on numerous committees, including a period as a member of the Council of the Australian War Memorial, and later president of the Australian College of Nursing.

## Coco Chanel

**Gabrielle Bonheur “Coco” Chanel was a French fashion designer and businesswoman famous for the little break dress and her signature scent Chanel No.5.**



Chanel's little black dress created in 1926 was translated to ready-to-wear as a staple of late afternoon and cocktail hours.

She lived in Switzerland after wartime collaboration with the Nazis. She believed male couturiers (Dior, Balenciaga and Piguet) were making clothes of illogical design that women would rebel against. The Chanel look continued to be known for its youthful ease, liberated physicality and sportive confidence.

## Amelia Earhart

**Amelia Earhart was an American aviation pioneer. On 2nd July 1937, she disappeared over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to become the first female pilot to circumnavigate the world.**

During her life, Earhart embraced celebrity culture and women's rights, and since her disappearance has become a global cultural figure. She was the first female pilot to fly solo non-stop across the Atlantic Ocean and set many other records. She was one of the first aviators to promote commercial air travel, wrote best-selling books about her flying experiences, and was instrumental in the formation of The Ninety-Nines, an organization for female pilots.

Decades after her presumed death, Earhart was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in 1968 and the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1973. Several commemorative memorials in the United States have been named in her honour.

She also has a minor planet, planetary corona, and newly discovered lunar crater named after her. Numerous films, documentaries, and books have recounted Earhart's life, and she is ranked ninth on Flying's list of the 51 Heroes of Aviation.

## Guillotine

**In the second half of the 18th century market women in Paris were the backbone of society.**

They worked, traded, administered their husbands' meagre salaries, looked after the kids, clothed their families with their knitting and sewing and made ends meet.

They were barometers of social stability. When they realised they had no more bread to feed their families, they rebelled. They marched on Versailles, demanding bread because they were hungry. That was the spark that started the French Revolution.

However, although the market women may have been the spark of the Revolution, its management was firmly in the hands of men, men who became increasingly authoritarian.

It was decided that the women could not sit in the gallery during meetings of the National Convention and eventually they were forbidden to participate in any political assembly. The women did not give up on being part of the process they had started. Some of them moved to the Place de la Révolution, where the executions took place. They watched their enemies get their heads severed from their bodies. And they brought their knitting.

## Mata Hari

**Mata Hari was a Dutch exotic dancer and courtesan who was convicted of being a spy for Germany during World War I. She was executed by firing squad in France aged 41.**

The British historian Julie Wheelwright stated, "an independent woman, a divorcée, a citizen of a neutral country, a courtesan, and a dancer, which made her a perfect scapegoat for the French, who were then losing the war. She was ... held up as an example of what might happen if your morals were too loose."

In popular culture, the idea of an exotic dancer working as a double agent makes her for many an enduring archetype of a femme fatale.

## Bonnie Parker

**Bonnie Parker of Bonnie and Clyde fame met Clyde in Texas in January 1930. At the time, Bonnie was 19 and married to an imprisoned murderer; Clyde was 21 and unmarried.**

Soon after, he was arrested for burglary and sent to jail. He escaped using a gun Bonnie had smuggled to him, was recaptured, and was sent back to prison. Clyde was paroled in February 1932, rejoined Bonnie, and resumed the life of crime.

On 23rd May 1934, police officers set up an ambush. In the early daylight, Bonnie and Clyde appeared in an automobile and when they attempted to drive away, the officers opened fire. They were killed instantly.

## Mother Teresa

**Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation that was initially dedicated to serving "the poorest of the poor" in the slums of Calcutta.**

Over the decades, the congregation grew to operate in over 133 countries, as of 2012, with more than 4,500 nuns managing homes for those dying from HIV/AIDS, leprosy, and tuberculosis, as well as running soup kitchens, dispensaries, mobile clinics, orphanages, and schools.

## Nancy Wake

**Nancy Wake, the White Mouse is New Zealand-born but Australian raised, woman.**

Wake married a Frenchman and during the World War II served as an ambulance driver, later joining the resistance.

In reference to Wake's ability to elude capture, the Gestapo called her the "White Mouse". She was arrested and held for 4 days by the Nazis, but not knowing that she was number 1 on the Gestapo's most wanted list, they let her go. After the war she worked for British intelligence.

Wake was a recipient of the George Medal from the UK, the Medal of Freedom from the United States, the Legion of Honour from France, a Companion of the Order of Australia from Australia and the Badge in Gold from New Zealand. Minor planet 17038 Wake was named after her.

# Women of influence

## Julia Gillard

**Julia Gillard is an Australian politician who served as leader of the Australian Labor Party (ALP; 2010–13) and as prime minister of Australia (2010–13).**

She was the first woman to hold either office.

## Germaine Greer

**Germaine Greer's ideas have created controversy ever since her first book, *The Female Eunuch* (1970), made her a household name.**

An international bestseller and a watershed text in the feminist movement, it offered a systematic deconstruction of ideas such as womanhood and femininity, arguing that women were forced to assume submissive roles in society to fulfil male fantasies of what being a woman entailed.

Greer's subsequent work has focused on literature, feminism and the environment. She has written over 20 books. Her 2013 book, *White Beech: The Rainforest Years*, describes her efforts to restore an area of rainforest in the Numinbah Valley in Australia. In June 2022 Germaine Greer was among the women highlighted in the Australian Women Changemakers exhibition at the Museum of Australian Democracy.

## Eleanor of Aquitaine

**Eleanor of Aquitaine was one of the most powerful women of the Middle Ages. Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right, she would go on to become Queen-Consort of France and later**

## Queen of England.

She was raised in one of Europe's most cultured courts and given an excellent education. She later became an important patron of poets and writers. The death of Eleanor's only brother, and of her father in 1137, left her with a vast inheritance. At just 15-years-old, she had suddenly become the most eligible heiress in Europe.

That same year she married Louis, heir to Louis VI of France, who shortly afterwards became king as Louis VII. The couple had two daughters. Later Eleanor married Henry of Anjou, who in 1154 became king of England. The couple had five sons and three daughters.

For nearly two decades, Eleanor played an active part in the running of Henry's empire, travelling backwards and forwards between their territories in England and France. Despite her age (in her mid-sixties, which was considered elderly in the 12th century) Eleanor became very closely involved in government. In 1190, she acted as regent in England when Richard went to join the Third Crusade.

## Malala Yousafzai

**On 9th October 2012, Malala Yousafzai was on a bus in Swat District of Pakistan after taking an exam. Yousafzai and two other girls were shot by a Taliban gunman in an assassination attempt targeting her for her activism; the gunman fled the scene.**

The attempt on her life sparked an international outpouring of support. Weeks after the attempted

murder, a group of 50 leading Muslim clerics in Pakistan issued a fatwā against those who tried to kill her.

Governments, human rights organisations and feminist groups subsequently condemned the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan. In response, the Taliban further denounced Yousafzai, indicating plans for a possible second assassination attempt which the Taliban felt was justified as a religious obligation. This sparked another international outcry.

After her recovery, Yousafzai became a more prominent activist for the right to education. Based in Birmingham, she co-founded the Malala Fund, a non-profit organisation. In 2013, she co-authored *I Am Malala*, an international bestseller. In 2013, she received the Sakharov Prize and in 2014 was the co-recipient of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize (with Kailash Satyarthi of India). Aged 17 at the time, she was the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate.

In 2015, she was the subject of the Oscar-shortlisted documentary *He Named Me Malala*. The 2013, 2014 and 2015 issues of Time magazine featured her as one of the most influential people globally. In 2017 she was awarded honorary Canadian citizenship and became the youngest person to address the House of Commons of Canada.

## Rosa Parkes

**Rosa Parkes was an American activist in the civil rights movement, best known for her pivotal role in the Montgomery bus boycott.**

Parks rejected a bus driver's order

to vacate a row of four seats in the "coloured" section in favour of a white female passenger who had complained to the driver, once the "white" section was filled.

Parks' act of defiance and the Montgomery bus boycott became important symbols of the movement. She became an international icon of resistance to racial segregation, and organised and collaborated with civil rights leaders, including Edgar Nixon and Martin Luther King Jr.

At the time, Parks was employed as a seamstress at a local department store and was secretary of the Montgomery chapter of the NAACP. She had recently attended the Highlander Folk School, a Tennessee center for training activists for workers' rights and racial equality.

Although widely honoured in later years, she also suffered for her act; she was fired from her job and received death threats for years afterwards.

She was active in the black power movement and the support of political prisoners in the US. After retirement, Parks wrote her autobiography and continued to insist that there was more work to be done in the struggle for justice. She received national recognitions and upon her death in 2005, she was the first woman to lie in honour in the Capitol Rotunda.

California and Missouri commemorate Rosa Parks Day on her birthday, 4th February, while Ohio, Oregon and Texas commemorate the anniversary of her arrest, 1st December.



## Edith Cowan

**Edith Cowan was an Australian social reformer who worked for the rights and welfare of women and children.**

She is best known as the first Australian woman to serve as a member of parliament and has been featured on the reverse of Australia's fifty-dollar note since 1995.

In 1894, Cowan was one of the founders of the Karrakatta Club, the first women's social club in Australia. She became prominent in the women's suffrage movement, which saw women in Western Australia granted the right to vote in 1899.

Cowan was a leading advocate for public education and the rights of children (particularly those born to single mothers). She was one of the first women to serve on a local board of education, and in 1906 helped to found the Children's Protection Society, whose lobbying resulted in the creation of the Children's Court the following year.

Cowan was a co-founder of the Women's Service Guild in 1909, and in 1911 helped establish a state branch of the National Council of Women. Cowan was a key figure in the creation of the King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, and became a member of its advisory board when it opened in 1916. She was made a justice of the Children's Court in 1915 and a justice of the peace in 1920.

In 1921, Cowan was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia as a member of the Nationalist Party, becoming Australia's first female parliamentarian. She was defeated after just a single term, but maintained a high

profile during her tenure and managed to secure the passage of several of her private member's bills.

In 1984, the federal Division of Cowan was created and named after her and in January 1991, the Western Australian College of Advanced Education was renamed Edith Cowan University.

# Women in the arts and sciences

## Lucille Ball

**Lucille Ball began acting in the 1930s. She became both a radio actress and B-movie star in the 1940s.**

Her television career began in the 1950s. She was still making movies in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1962, Ball became the first woman to run a major television studio, Desilu. This studio made many successful and popular television series.

Ball was one of the most popular and powerful actors in the United States during her lifetime. She also had one of Hollywood's longest careers. Ball was nominated for an Emmy Award thirteen times. She won four times. In 1977, Ball was one of the first people to be given the Women in Film Crystal Award. She was given the Golden Globe Cecil B. DeMille Award in 1979, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center Honors in 1986, and the Governor's Award from the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in 1989.

## Emily, Charlotte & Anne Bronte

**In May 1846 sisters Emily, Charlotte and Anne published at their own expense a volume of poetry. This was the first use of their pseudonyms Currer (Charlotte), Ellis (Emily) and Acton (Anne) Bell. They all went on to publish novels, with differing levels of success.**

Anne's *Agnes Grey* and Charlotte's *Jane Eyre* were published in 1847. *Jane Eyre* was one of the year's best sellers. Anne's second novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* and Emily's *Wuthering Heights* were both

published in 1848.

At the time, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* sold well, but *Wuthering Heights* did not.

## Marie Curie

**Marie Curie was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person to win a Nobel Prize twice, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two scientific fields.**

Marie won the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her discovery of the elements polonium and radium, using techniques she invented for isolating radioactive isotopes.

Under her direction, the world's first studies were conducted into the treatment of neoplasms by the use of radioactive isotopes. She founded the Curie Institute in Paris in 1920, and the Curie Institute in Warsaw in 1932; both remain major medical research centers.

During World War I, she developed mobile radiography units to provide X-ray services to field hospitals. In addition to her Nobel Prizes, she received numerous other honors and tributes; in 1995 she became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Paris Panthéon, and Poland declared 2011 the Year of Marie Curie during the International Year of Chemistry.

As one of the most famous scientists in history, Marie Curie has become an icon in the scientific world and has received tributes from across the globe, even in the realm of pop culture.

## Anne Frank



**Anne Frank was a German-born Jewish girl who kept a diary documenting her life in hiding amid Nazi persecution during the German occupation of the Netherlands.**

A celebrated diarist, Frank described everyday life from her family's hiding place in an Amsterdam attic. She gained fame posthumously and became one of the most-discussed Jewish victims of the Holocaust with the 1947 publication of *The Diary of a Young Girl* which documents her life in hiding from 1942 to 1944.

It is one of the world's best-known books and has been the basis for several plays and films. In 1999, Time magazine named Anne Frank among the heroes and icons of the 20th century on their list The Most Important People of the Century.

Madame Tussauds wax museum unveiled an exhibit featuring a likeness of Anne Frank in 2012. Asteroid 5535 Anne Frank was named in her honour in 1995. As of 2018, there are over 270 schools named after Anne Frank worldwide, among them the 6th Montessori School in Amsterdam which Frank herself attended until 1941.

## Miles Franklin

**Miles Franklin is an Australian writer and feminist who is best known for her novel *My Brilliant Career*.**

While she wrote throughout her life, her other major literary success, *All That Swagger*, was not published until 1936.

She was committed to the development of a uniquely Australian form of literature, and she actively pursued

this goal by supporting writers, literary journals, and writers' organisations.

She has had a long-lasting impact on Australian literary life through her endowment of a major annual prize for literature about "Australian Life in any of its phases", the Miles Franklin Award. Her impact was further recognised in 2013 with the creation of the Stella Prize, awarded annually for the best work of literature by an Australian woman.

The Canberra suburb of Franklin and the nearby primary school Miles Franklin Primary School are named in her honour.

## Frida Kahlo

**Frida Kahlo was a Mexican artist whose striking, distinctive works combine an exploration of gender, class and identity with symbols from the nation's cultural history.**

Kahlo has gone on to become an important figure for social causes including feminism and LGBTQ rights.

## Hedy Lemaar

**Hedy Lemaar was an Austrian-born American actress and inventor who wanted to aid the Allied forces during World War II.**

She explored potential military applications for radio technology. She theorized that varying radio frequencies at irregular intervals would prevent interception or jamming of transmissions, thereby creating an innovative communication system. She shared her concept for using "frequency hopping" with the U.S. Navy and codeveloped a patent with George

Antheil in 1941. Today, her innovation helped make possible a wide range of wireless communications technologies, including Wi-Fi, GPS, and Bluetooth.

## Lottie Lyell

**Screen pioneer Lottie Lyell was a writer, producer, director, editor and art director, and an accomplished horsewoman who did all her own stunts.**

She is regarded as Australia's first film star, and also contributed to the local industry. She made 28 films, before she died aged 35. Their production company, the Southern Cross Feature Film Co, was the first production company founded in South Australia, and it made its very first feature – *The Woman Suffers* – regarded as Australia's first feminist film, exactly 100 years ago.

The following year they made *The Sentimental Bloke*, the most successful Australian film of its day. First presented in 1968, the AACTA Longford Lyell Award is the highest honour that the Australian Academy can bestow upon an individual.

## Catherine Martin

**Catherine Martin is an Australian costume designer, production designer, set designer, and producer.**

She is known for collaborations with her husband, Baz Luhrmann. She has received numerous accolades, including four Academy Awards, six BAFTA Awards, and a Tony Award.

Martin came to prominence with her

first major film credit on *Strictly Ballroom* (1992), which later became the first installment of the "Red Curtain Trilogy". For her work on the film's aesthetic, she earned two BAFTAs for Best Costume Design and Best Production Design, among other accolades.

Martin received her first Oscar nomination for art direction in the second part of the trilogy, *Romeo + Juliet* (1996). She then won the Academy Award for Best Costume Design as well as the Academy Award for Best Production Design for her work on the Curtain's last chapter, *Moulin Rouge!* (2001). Martin became just the second woman to win multiple Oscars in a single year and the first to accomplish this feat twice for *The Great Gatsby* (2013). She was Oscar-nominated for *Australia* (2008) and *Elvis* (2022).

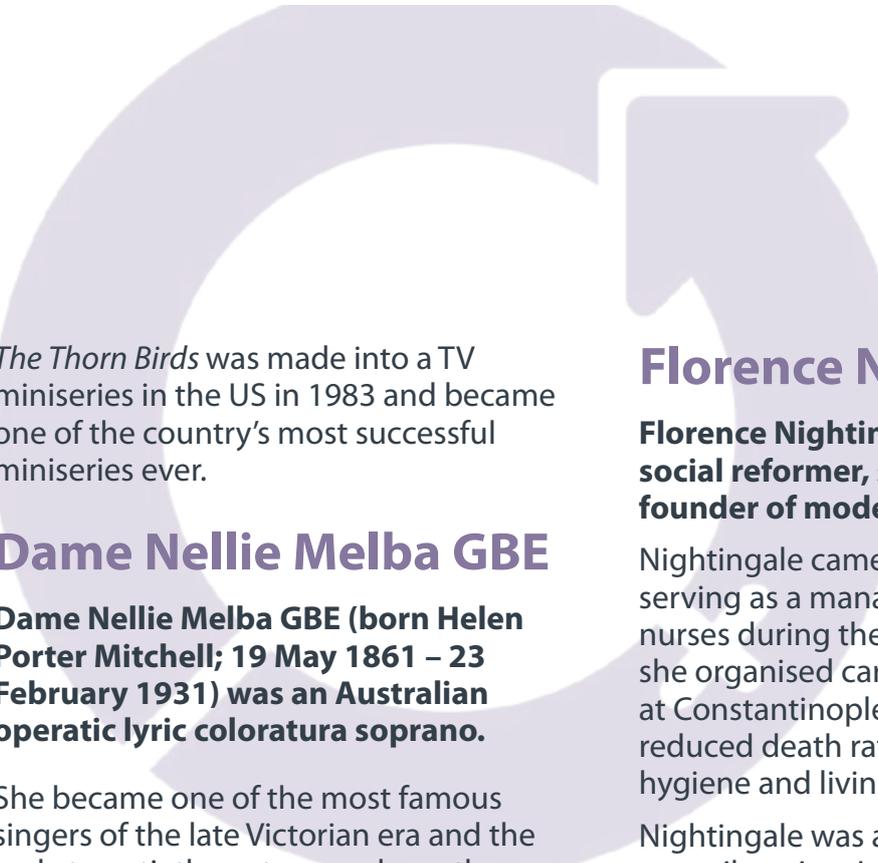
Having won four awards out of nine nominations, she holds the record for the most Oscar wins of any Australian.

## Colleen McCullough

**Colleen McCullough is famous for her novels *The Thorn Birds* (1977) and *The Ladies of Missaloughi* (1987).**

McCullough's work was predominantly historical fiction with many of the stories she wrote taking place in historical settings and being meticulously researched.

McCullough was a qualified neuroscientist and conducted research and taught at the Department of Neurology at Yale University in the US. It was during her time at Yale that she wrote *The Thorn Birds* and *Tim*, her first novel.



*The Thorn Birds* was made into a TV miniseries in the US in 1983 and became one of the country's most successful miniseries ever.

## Dame Nellie Melba GBE

**Dame Nellie Melba GBE (born Helen Porter Mitchell; 19 May 1861 – 23 February 1931) was an Australian operatic lyric coloratura soprano.**

She became one of the most famous singers of the late Victorian era and the early twentieth century, and was the first Australian to achieve international recognition as a classical musician. She took the pseudonym "Melba" from Melbourne, her hometown.

## Mona Lisa

**The Mona Lisa is a portrait painting of Lisa del Giocondo by Italian artist Leonardo da Vinci. Considered an archetypal masterpiece of the Italian Renaissance, it has been described as "the best known, the most visited, the most written about, the most sung about, [and] the most parodied work of art in the world."**

The painting's novel qualities include the subject's enigmatic expression, monumentality of the composition, the subtle modelling of forms and the atmospheric illusionism.

The Mona Lisa is one of the most valuable paintings in the world. It holds the Guinness World Record for the highest known painting insurance valuation in history at US\$100 million in 1962, equivalent to \$1 billion as of 2023.

## Florence Nightingale

**Florence Nightingale was an English social reformer, statistician and the founder of modern nursing.**

Nightingale came to prominence while serving as a manager and trainer of nurses during the Crimean War, in which she organised care for wounded soldiers at Constantinople. She significantly reduced death rates by improving hygiene and living standards.

Nightingale was also a prodigious and versatile writer. In her lifetime, much of her published work was concerned with spreading medical knowledge. Some of her tracts were written in simple English so that they could easily be understood by those with poor literary skills. She was also a pioneer in data visualisation with the use of infographics, using graphical presentations of statistical data in an effective way. Much of her writing, including her extensive work on religion and mysticism, has only been published posthumously.

## Mary Shelley

**Mary Shelley was born to political philosopher William Godwin and feminist activist Mary Wollstonecraft, and her husband was poet Percy Bysshe Shelley.**

Mary Shelley managed – through her 1818 work *Frankenstein; or, the Modern Prometheus* – to make a name for herself, even in such high-achieving company. Blending the horrific with the sympathetic, the Gothic with the Romantic, the novel has gone on to become a literary classic.

## Beyoncé

**Beyoncé made history at the 2023 GRAMMYS by becoming the artist with the most GRAMMY wins ever when she won the GRAMMY for Best Dance/Electronic Music Album for her 2022 album, RENAISSANCE, and to this day, she still holds the record. Beyoncé counts 35 total GRAMMY wins to date.**

In a 2013 interview with Vogue, Beyoncé stated that she considered herself to be “a feminist”. She would later align herself more publicly with the movement, sampling “We should all be feminists”, a speech delivered by Nigerian author Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie at a TEDx talk in April 2013.

The next year she performed live at the MTV Video Awards in front a giant backdrop reading “Feminist”. Her self-identification incited a circulation of opinions and debate about whether her feminism is aligned with older, more established feminist ideals.

Annie Lennox, celebrated artist and feminist advocate, referred to Beyoncé’s use of her word feminist as ‘feminist lite’. She says to understand what being a feminist is, “it’s very simple. It’s someone who believes in equal rights for men and women.”

Beyoncé advocated to provide equal opportunities for young boys and girls, men and women must begin to understand the double standards that remain persistent in our societies and the issue must be illuminated in effort to start making changes.

## Karen Carpenter

**Karen Carpenter was an American musician who was the lead vocalist and early drummer of the highly successful duo The Carpenters, formed with her older brother Richard.**

With a distinctive three-octave contralto range, she was praised by her peers for her vocal skills.

Her death brought media attention to conditions such as anorexia nervosa; the condition had not been widely known beforehand.

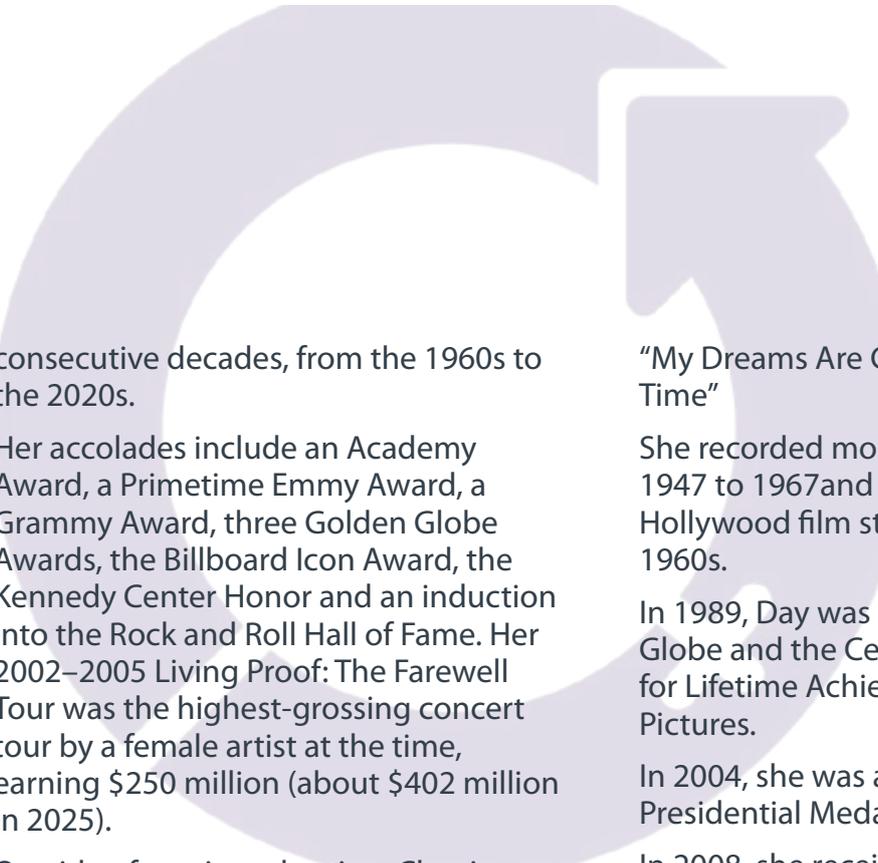
## Cher

**Cher is an American singer, actress and television personality. Dubbed the “Goddess of Pop”, she is known for her androgynous contralto voice, multifaceted career and bold visual presentation, while cultivating a screen persona that mirrors her public image by often portraying strong-willed, independent and outspoken women.**

Her adaptability has driven multiple comebacks over a career spanning more than six decades. The 1998 vocoder-trance hit “Believe,” became the biggest-selling hit by a female artist in the UK.

In more recent years, she also became an unexpected success on social media, hilariously baiting the Donald Trumps of this world in capital letters.

Cher is one of the best-selling music artists of all time, with estimated sales of over 100 million records worldwide. She is the only solo artist with number-one singles on the Billboard charts in seven



consecutive decades, from the 1960s to the 2020s.

Her accolades include an Academy Award, a Primetime Emmy Award, a Grammy Award, three Golden Globe Awards, the Billboard Icon Award, the Kennedy Center Honor and an induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Her 2002–2005 Living Proof: The Farewell Tour was the highest-grossing concert tour by a female artist at the time, earning \$250 million (about \$402 million in 2025).

Outside of music and acting, Cher is vocal about her progressive political views, and has advocated and fundraised for causes including LGBTQ rights and HIV/AIDS prevention.

In 2003, Cher appeared at number 41 on VH1's list of "The 200 Greatest Pop Culture Icons", which recognizes "the folks that have significantly inspired and impacted American society". She was ranked 31st on VH1's list of "The 100 Greatest Women in Music" for the period 1992–2012. Esquire magazine placed her at number 44 on their list of "The 75 Greatest Women of All Time". She was featured on the "100 Greatest Movie Stars of our Time" list compiled by People. In a 2001 poll, Biography magazine ranked her as their third favorite leading actress of all time.

## Doris Day

**Doris Day was an American actress and singer.**

She began her career as a big band singer in 1937, achieving commercial success in 1945 with two No. 1 recordings, "Sentimental Journey" and

"My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time"

She recorded more than 650 songs from 1947 to 1967 and was one of the leading Hollywood film stars of the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1989, Day was awarded the Golden Globe and the Cecil B. DeMille Award for Lifetime Achievement in Motion Pictures.

In 2004, she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In 2008, she received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award as well as a Legend Award from the Society of Singers.

In 2011, she was awarded the Los Angeles Film Critics Association's Career Achievement Award.

In 2011, Day released her 29th studio album, My Heart, which contained new material and became a UK Top 10 album.

As of 2020, she was one of eight recording artists to have been the top box-office earner in the United States four times.

During the filming of The Man Who Knew Too Much, Day observed the mistreatment of animals in a marketplace scene and was inspired to act against animal abuse.

Doris Day actively engaged in HIV/AIDS awareness for many years. Her commitment was primarily focused on raising awareness and fundraising for HIV/AIDS research. She co-organized several fundraising events for HIV/AIDS-related charities and provided financial contributions to research and support programs for individuals affected by the

disease. In 2011, the Canadian magazine *Gay Globe* paid tribute to Doris Day by featuring her on the cover of their #79 edition.

## Ella Fitzgerald

**Ella Fitzgerald was an American singer, songwriter and composer, sometimes referred to as the “First Lady of Song”, “Queen of Jazz”, and “Lady Ella”.**

She was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing, timing, intonation, absolute pitch, and a “horn-like” improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing. Fitzgerald won 13 Grammy Awards, and received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award in 1967.

In 1958 Fitzgerald became the first African American woman to win at the inaugural show. Her other major awards and honours included Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Medal of Honor Award, National Medal of Art, first Society of Singers Lifetime Achievement Award (named “Ella” in her honor), Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the George and Ira Gershwin Award for Lifetime Musical Achievement, UCLA Spring Sing, and the UCLA Medal (1987), University of Southern California, she received the USC “Magnum Opus” Award.

In 1986, she received an honorary Doctor of Music from Yale University. In 1990, she received an honorary doctorate of Music from Harvard University.

## Kylie Minogue

**Kylie Minogue is an Australian singer, songwriter, and actress. Minogue is the highest-selling Australian female artist of all time.**

Frequently referred to as the “Princess of Pop”, she has achieved recognition in both the music industry and fashion world as a major style icon. Her accolades include two Grammy Awards, four Brit Awards and eighteen ARIA Music Awards. with sales surpassing 80 million records worldwide. In 2024, *Time* named her one of the most influential people in the world. Since her breast cancer diagnosis in 2005, she has been a sponsor and ambassador for the cause.

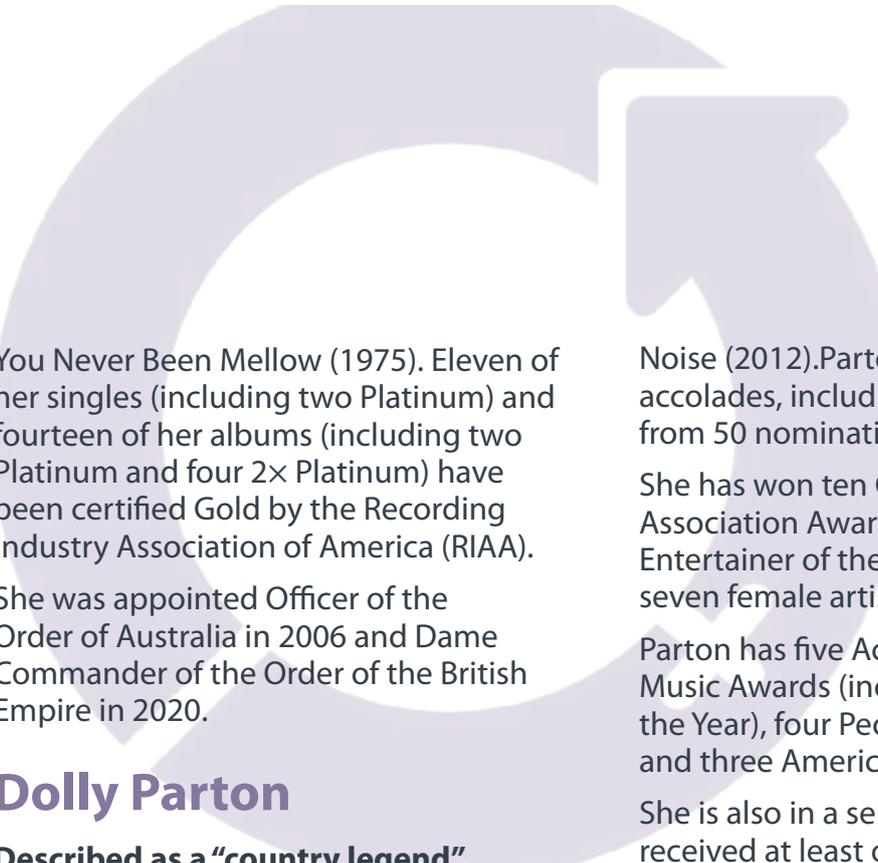
In January 2020, in response to the 2019–20 Australian bushfire season, she announced she and her family were donating A\$500,000 towards immediate firefighting efforts and ongoing support.

## Olivia Newton John AC DBE

**Olivia Newton John AC DBE is an Australian singer and actress. With over 100 million records sold, she was one of the best-selling music artists of all time.**

Newton-John’s accolades include four Grammy Awards, a Daytime Emmy Award, nine Billboard Music Awards, six American Music Awards and a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

She scored fifteen top-ten singles, including five number-one singles on the Billboard Hot 100, and two number-one albums on the Billboard 200: *If You Love Me, Let Me Know* (1974) and *Have*



You Never Been Mellow (1975). Eleven of her singles (including two Platinum) and fourteen of her albums (including two Platinum and four 2× Platinum) have been certified Gold by the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

She was appointed Officer of the Order of Australia in 2006 and Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2020.

## Dolly Parton

**Described as a “country legend”, Parton has sold more than 100 million records worldwide, making her one of the best-selling music artists of all time.**

Her music includes Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA)-certified gold, platinum and multi-platinum awards.

- 25 singles reach No. 1 on the Billboard country music charts, a record for a female artist (tied with Reba McEntire).
- 44 career Top 10 country albums, a record for any artist
- 110 career-charted singles over the past 40 years.
- composed over 3,000 songs, including “I Will Always Love You”, “Jolene”, “Coat of Many Colors”, and “9 to 5”.

As an actress, she has starred in the films *9 to 5* (1980) and *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas* (1982), for each of which she earned Best Actress Golden Globe nominations, as well as *Rhinestone* (1984), *Steel Magnolias* (1989), *Straight Talk* (1992), and *Joyful*

*Noise* (2012). Parton has received various accolades, including 11 Grammy Awards from 50 nominations.

She has won ten Country Music Association Awards, including Entertainer of the Year, being one of seven female artists to achieve it.

Parton has five Academy of Country Music Awards (including Entertainer of the Year), four People’s Choice Awards, and three American Music Awards.

She is also in a select group to have received at least one nomination from the Academy Awards, Grammy Awards, Tony Awards, and Emmy Awards. In 2005, Parton received the National Medal of Arts.

She was the second woman to be inducted into both the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

She launched her non-profit organisation, The Dollywood Foundation in 1988. The goal was to increase the number of local high school graduates and decrease the dropout rate. She has given a total of more than \$17.3 billion to more than 2,000 nonprofits in the last four years.

## Suzi Quatro

**Suzi Quatro challenged gender boundaries by becoming the first famous female rock bassist.**

Determinedly presenting herself as one of the (tom)boys, Quatro subtly drew attention to double standards. Irked by US record companies trying to make her into the next Janis, she moved to the UK in 1971 to find success on the

suggestion of producer Mickie Most, who “offered to take me to England and make me the first Suzi Quatro.”

Quatro laid claim to head bangingly “male” glam and hard rock sounds of the era, as heard in her hits “Can The Can,” “48 Crash” and “Devil Gate Drive,” all million-sellers – marked her out as a true original.

Later she’d come to wider recognition in her home country as the rocker Leather Tuscadero on the sitcom Happy Days.

## Katy Perry

**Katy Perry is one of the best-selling music artists in history, having sold over 143 million units worldwide. She is known for her influence on pop music and her camp style, being dubbed the “Queen of Camp” by Vogue and Rolling Stone.**

Perry has the second-most U.S. Diamond-certified singles for any female artist (six). She has received various accolades, including a Billboard Spotlight Award, four Guinness World Records, five Billboard Music Awards, five American Music Awards, a Brit Award, a Juno Award, and the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.

Outside of music, she released an autobiographical documentary titled *Katy Perry: Part of Me* in 2012, voiced Smurfette in *The Smurfs* film series (2011–2013), and launched her own shoe line *Katy Perry Collections* in 2017. Perry served as a judge on *American Idol* from the sixteenth season in 2018 to the twenty-second season in 2024. *Forbes* ranked her as the world’s highest-paid female musician in 2015 and 2018.

With an estimated net worth of \$350 million, she is one of the world’s wealthiest musicians.

Perry has supported various charitable organisations and causes throughout her career. She has contributed to organisations aimed at improving the lives and welfare of children in particular.

# Women in sports

## Australian Diamonds

**The Australian Diamonds, represent Netball Australia in international netball tournaments such as the Netball World Cup, the Commonwealth Games, the Constellation Cup, the Netball Quad Series, the Fast5 Netball World Series and the World Games.**

Australia made their Test debut in 1938. As of 2023, Australia have been World champions on 12 occasions and Commonwealth champions on 4 occasions. They are regularly ranked number one in the World Netball Rankings.

## Sarah Frances “Fanny” Durack

**At the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, Sarah Frances “Fanny” Durack became the first Australian female to an Olympic gold medal by winning the 100m freestyle swimming event.**

Her fellow Australian swimmer, Wilhelmina (Mina) Wylie, won the silver medal in the same race.

Fanny was considered the world’s greatest swimmer from 1910 to 1918.

## Dawn Fraser

**Dawn Fraser is infamous for an incident that occurred during the 1964 Tokyo Olympics.**

After winning her third consecutive gold medal in the 100m freestyle, she, along with two teammates, attempted to steal the Olympic flag from outside the Emperor’s Palace. They were caught by

police, and Fraser was questioned and later fined for the act. This incident led to her being banned from competing in the 1968 Olympics, and it marked a controversial end to her swimming career. Despite this, she remains one of Australia’s greatest Olympians.

## Evonne Goolagong Cawley AC MBE

**Evonne Goolagong Cawley AC MBE is a legendary Australian tennis player who made a significant impact on the sport.**

Born on July 31, 1951, in Griffith, New South Wales, she is of Wiradjuri heritage. Evonne’s legacy extends beyond her on-court achievements; she has been an inspiration to many, especially Indigenous youth, through her work with the Goolagong National Development Camp.

Here are some of her remarkable achievements:

- 14 Grand Slam singles titles, including four Australian Open titles, two Wimbledon titles, and one French Open title.
- In 1980, she became the first mother to win Wimbledon in 66 years.
- She reached the No. 1 ranking in both the women’s singles and doubles.
- She led Australia to victory in the Fed Cup three times (1971, 1973, 1974).
- Australian of the Year in 1971, Member of the Order of the British Empire in 1972, Officer of the Order of Australia in 1982.

## Shane Gould

**At the age of 15, Shane Gould stamped herself as one of the greatest female swimmers of her time.**

Gould competed in only one Olympic Games and won more medals, five, than any female Australian athlete had ever done. She set eleven world records before retiring at 16 years old and is still, to this day, the only swimmer in history to hold all freestyle world records, 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m and the 200m Individual Medley at the same time.

She was inducted into the Australian Hall of Fame in 1985 as an Athlete Member for her contribution to the sport of swimming and was elevated as a Legend of Australian Sport in 1996.

## Marjorie Jackson-Nelson

**Marjorie Jackson-Nelson is an Australian former athlete and politician. She was the Governor of South Australia between 2001 and 2007.**

She finished her sporting career with two Olympic and seven Commonwealth Games Gold Medals, six individual world records and every Australian state and national title she contested from 1950 to 1954.

She plays mainly on the US-based LPGA Tour, and also turns out once or twice a year on the ALPG Tour in her home country. She is a member of the World Golf Hall of Fame. She has 41 wins on the LPGA Tour, more than any other active player.

## Sam Kerr

**Sam Kerr is a world-renowned soccer player, captain of the Matildas, and one of the top scorers in the Women's Super League.**

She switched from Australian rules football aged 12 mainly due to gender restrictions. As a teenager, she played for Western Knights and Perth Glory.

She is the CEO of charity, Out for Australia which supports young LGBTQIA+ people.

## Nova Peris OAM

**Nova Peris OAM won gold in field hockey at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.**

Nova Peris is a descendant of the Gija, Yawuru, and Iwatja peoples and has also made significant contributions off the field, including her work in politics and Indigenous advocacy.

## Arisa Trew

**Arisa Trew made history at the 2024 Paris Olympics by winning the women's park skateboarding final at just 14 years old.**

Her incredible performance earned her a top score of 93.18, securing Australia's first gold medal in the sport.



NORTHERN TERRITORY

*for senior Territorians*

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